

SAP happy over prevention
Annual Stop AIDS Project awards dinner planned for this Monday.
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Everyone has Pride
Celebrations all around, as SF plans for Pink Saturday.
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Ending in the dance zone
Kevin Ware leaves the Oberlin Dance Company after 8 years.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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No surprise in Salvation Army move to drop city contracts

Other agencies to fill the void

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco officials are continuing in their efforts to find replacement agencies to take over \$3.5 million in social service contracts currently operated by the Salvation Army. Last week, after 11 months of negotiations, the Salvation Army announced the national organization refused to allow its San Francisco region to comply with the city's equal benefits ordinance. Negotiations broke down last Wednesday, June 3 and the agency said it will not be able to abide by the law, saying it conflicts with the group's Christian beliefs.

The news came as no big surprise to city officials.

Already, nonprofits such as Project Open Hand and Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco have expressed an interest in assuming the hot lunch for seniors program that the Salvation Army will be scaling back in September.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who co-authored the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance, pointed out the Salvation Army has had a "checkered past" when it comes to gay rights, and said he's confident other agencies can step in and fill the void. Mayor Willie Brown offered similar statements last week and directed Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz and Will Lightbourne, director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), to find suitable agencies.

Lightbourne told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, June 9 that DHS is working with other city departments to get request for proposals (RFP) out in a timely manner, so services will not be disrupted when the Salvation Army ends the contracts. "To be honest, it didn't come as a great shock to us," Lightbourne said of the Salvation Army canceling the contracts.

In a prepared statement, Katz said, "We are reviewing existing and potential providers of these services and will be able to arrange for new providers by the September cutoff date."

Christianity, equality 'conflicts'

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Love, who is in charge of the San Francisco region of the Salvation Army, last week said the regional division could not act independently of headquarters; the U.S. operations are run by a five-member governing board and the international headquarters is in Lon-

page <None> ▶

Queers on a roll

by Rod Helton



Larry Lee (left, blocking Frank Apodaca of the Bombers) says it's time for a queer team - and he's obviously the type who's willing to fight for what he wants.

Gays turn pro in roller derby

Roller Derby is back in San Francisco! The California Bombers of the Bay Area will host the All-Stars (made up of favorite players from other American League teams) this Saturday, June 13 at Kezar Pavilion, to the delight of many gay and lesbian fans.

How many? Larry Lee, who coaches the Royal Rollers and will be skating for the All-Stars this Saturday, says a lot more gays and lesbians are in the sport than most people might think - on both sides of the guard rail.

In fact, he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, it could be time to form a completely openly queer pro team.

"I just about have one now," he added. "I have eight men on my team, and seven are openly gay."

Lee, a professional skater since 1971, believes a team representing the queer community might overlap one or more of the

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AIDS activist's funeral zaps White House

by Bob Roehr

The drumbeat was slow and solemn as AIDS activist Steve Michael's last request, a political funeral, wound its way through the streets of Washington Thursday, June 4. Michael's mother Barbara led the cortege with Wayne Turner, the activist's lover and partner of seven years. Behind them, mourners strained to push the casket holding his body up the incline of

15th Street and on towards the White House.

They stopped in the street in front of the presidential mansion and, with measured ceremony, opened the coffin. Michael lay within the white satin lining, stiff and waxen in death, dressed in a white T-shirt with ACT UP emblazoned on his chest.

"In 1992 the occupant of that house made very clear and specific promises, commit-

ments to people living with HIV disease and to a nation living at risk," charged Bill Freeman, former executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). "And where are we now? This is a president who said the right thing and did the wrong thing. Integrity isn't something you take off a shelf and put it on when you want to."

He praised Michael as "a man whose words followed his deeds," and compared him to Clinton: "There sits a man," he said, pointing towards the White House, "whose words are used conveniently."

Turning to the coffin, he said, "Great necessity calls forward great leaders. Here is a great leader."

Pointing again across the fence, he con-

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A moment of silence = death: Wayne Turner and Barbara Michael with Steve Michael's coffin in front of the White House

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All creatures great and small



Minister Marguerite Judson (left) and her partner, Community Center Project Board President and SPCA Development Director Brenda Barnette, attend to the needs of this canine cutie at the SPCA Animal Wingding June 7. The annual soirée at SPCA headquarters on 16th Street includes a blessing of the animals, even pit bulls.

PAWS 'Fun Run' Sun.

by Cynthia Laird

Dog lovers, unite. This Sunday, June 14 marks the third annual "Doggone Fun

Run" benefit for Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS). The 5K run/walk will take place at Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park in the morning, giving people the chance to zip down to San Jose for

that city's gay pride festivities afterwards.

People can still register for the fun run; those who get \$50 or more in donations get a T-shirt and doggie bandanna, said Chris Dunaway, PAWS operations director. There are additional prizes for additional money raised, she added. Dogs and humans get water and snacks at the finish line, where there will also be entertainment, including comic Suzy Berger and musician Bern.

There are several rules for both dogs and their owners to adhere to for the safety of everyone, organizers said. Dogs must be current on their vaccinations and be older than six months; additionally, aggressive canines are not allowed, nor are dogs that are in heat. Runners or walkers must sign a release and abide by other regulations.

PAWS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping to care for the companion animals of people living with AIDS. The organization has been serving low income city residents since 1987, and offers a variety of services including pet food, assistance with veterinary care, dog walking, and litter box cleaning.

Money raised this Sunday will support the PAWS animal food bank, veterinary care for PAWS clients, and educational materials for teaching people about the benefits and risks of animal companionship for those who have compromised immune systems.

The annual doggone fun run is one of PAWS' biggest annual events, although the agency did have a hugely successful "Petchitecture" event in February that brought in around \$40,000, Dunaway said. Equally important with the fun run is the opportunity it gives people and their dog to exercise and raise awareness about AIDS and the needs PWAs sometimes have in caring for their pets. ▼

Registration starts at 9 a.m., and the run is at 10. Call PAWS at (415) 241-1460 for more information or to get forms, or stop by their office at 2189 Market Street. Speedway Meadow is on Kennedy Drive near where 25th Avenue enters the northern edge of the park.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Puckett trial to begin

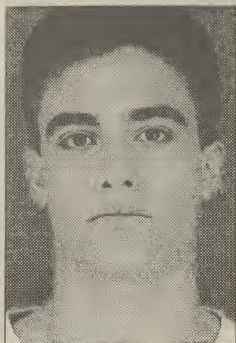
... but surprises already surface

by Ed Walsh

Jury selection is set to get under way Monday, June 15 in Martinez, in the case against fledgling teen model Josh Puckett, who is accused of killing 29-year old Russian émigré Vitaly Poliakov. A jury panel is expected to be assembled by the end of the week. The trial is expected to last three to four weeks.

Poliakov was gay. Puckett, 18, says he is heterosexual and killed Poliakov to fend off a sexual assault at a house in Orinda after a night of drugs and drinking. Puckett confessed to beating Poliakov to death with a cider bottle and disposing of the body in a creek in his hometown of Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County.

The prosecution's star witness is expected to testify that Puckett had talked about wanting to kill someone in the days before the



Josh Puckett

killing. That witness also acknowledged to prosecutors that he had sex with Puckett on one occasion, but the defense is trying to prevent prosecutors from introducing that portion of the testimony as irrelevant. The witness

came to the attention of authorities as a result of Deputy District Attorney Barry Grove making an appeal through the *Bay Area Reporter* for anyone with information on the case to come forward.

Prosecutors are seeking to head off a so-called "gay panic" defense, that gay sex was so alien to Puckett that he acted out of panic to prevent what he perceived to be a repugnant act. Prosecutors believe Puckett is gay or bisexual, and they want to prove that to a jury to blunt a potential gay panic defense.

The B.A.R. has learned that prosecutors have evidence that may help them prove that Poliakov and Puckett likely had an intimate relationship before the killing. A DNA analysis of a semen stain on Poliakov's bedding showed that it was Poliakov's — but it was mixed with Puckett's saliva.

The B.A.R. has also learned that Poliakov was HIV-positive. Prosecutors are trying to prevent the defense from divulging Poliakov's HIV status to the jury. The defense is expected to argue that Puckett never intended to kill anyone; that he was simply trying to prevent a potentially deadly assault.

Meanwhile, most of Puckett's friends, both gay and straight, continue to stand by him. They describe him as kind, loving, and misunderstood. They say he's anything but a murderer. ▼

Gay SF man struck, killed at Market and Noe

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco resident Sergio Gasca's life was cut short early on the morning of Saturday, June 6 when he was struck and killed by an alleged drunk driver while crossing Market Street at Noe Street. Friends said the openly gay Gasca, 29, was crossing the street at about 2 a.m. with another friend who had dropped something; as Gasca stopped to retrieve the object, he apparently was hit by the vehicle. He later died at San Francisco General Hospital.

San Francisco police have arrested Earl Gomez in connection with the case, according to John Shanley with the district attorney's office. Gomez will be arraigned Thursday, June 11 and will be charged with gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, Shanley said.

The suspect apparently did not flee the scene, and was reported to

be in shock following the accident. Gasca was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he was pronounced brain dead; he was taken off life support about 24 hours later, friends said.

Gasca, who was born in Mexico City, moved to San Francisco about two and a half years ago. He worked as a systems analyst at the Hill Physician's Medical Group in San Ramon. His lover, Olivier Corbi, lives in Paris; Gasca had planned to move there to be with him.

No further information was available at press time. The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office is still investigating the case, as are police and the district attorney's office.

Gasca is survived by his mother, six brothers, and seven sisters, all of the Bakersfield area; Corbi; and many friends in the Bay Area. A memorial for Gasca is planned for Saturday, June 20 at 5 p.m. For information, call Donald Francis at (415) 552-0176. ▼



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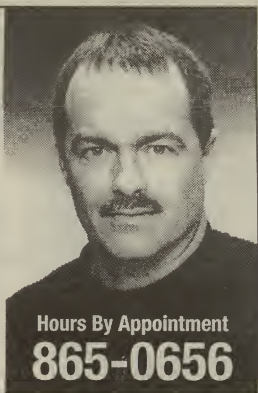
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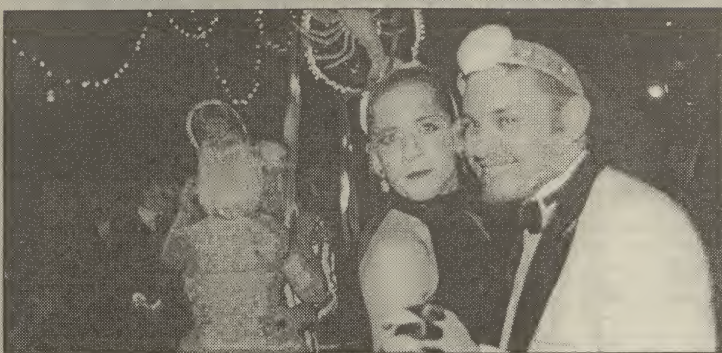
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Man/woman overboard



Senior royalty Tawdry Hepburn and Hunter share the spotlight following their coronation at the glam Polysexual High School Promstitute '98 June 6. "That Sinking Feeling..." was the theme, and many came appropriately attired. Decorations furthered the theme, and onboard entertainment included shuffleboard and dancing. The gender-bending event was a benefit for LYRIC.

Gay Prom '98 Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and their friends have a chance to get down for a night of dancing and fun this Saturday, June 13. The fourth annual Gay Prom '98, sponsored by Lambda Project, will take over Hayward's Centennial Hall - and decorate it in a special tribute to Hollywood to fit the night's theme of "Where Dreams Come True."

The festivities will include an evening wear competition, royal court competition, and fabulous door prizes for partygoers, who

must be under 25 years of age. Horizons Services, Inc., which organized the prom, have put together a sizzling evening of music by DJs Geoff St. John from WILD-94.9 FM; Page Model of The Box; and Casey Alva from Groove Radio FM 103.1.

The previous gay proms in the East Bay have been hugely successful, drawing young queers from around the state. The events provide youths a safe environment that is free of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, as well as homophobia, for their prom experience. This year, the event received funds from the California Depart-

ment of Health Services, collected through the tobacco tax.

Tickets are \$25 each at the door, or \$20 in advance from the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) in San Francisco; the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Center in San Jose; and Project Eden and Out of the Closet, both in Hayward. ▼

Gay Prom '98 is from 7 p.m. until midnight at Centennial Hall, 22292 Foothill Blvd., in Hayward. For information, call (510) 247-8214 or check out www.gayprom.org.

Black Brothers cabaret, dance Friday

by Terrance Boykin

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Black Brothers Esteem invite African-American gay, bisexual, and same-gender-loving people to a cabaret and dance experience this Friday, June 12.

"The Sweeter The Juice - An Evening of Tasty Tunes" will be held at the Center for African and African-American Art & Culture,

located at 762 Fulton (at Webster). The first of the evening's two parts kicks off at 8 p.m., with scheduled performances by Shade, featuring Cedric Brown, Andre Morgan & Dream Forward, Allegra Brandy, blackberri, and ds.

The cabaret will be followed by a dance from 10-1 a.m.

A component of the Gay Life Program, The Black Brothers Esteem is a community-based program the San Francisco AIDS Foundation established to address

the particular needs of same-gender-loving African-American men. Some of the issues they may struggle with include the issues of HIV, related challenges of poverty, substance abuse, and violence.

Prevention Outreach Manager Jamal Bay told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "We're very excited about this pre-Pride celebration. This is a great opportunity to come together, to network, and to empower each other towards building community." ▼

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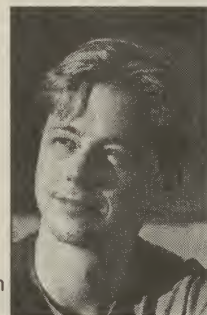
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SF bankruptcy court hears HIV fraud and sexual battery case

by Mark Mardon

The mood was somber and hushed among the few litigants occupying U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali's plush courtroom in downtown San Francisco last Monday, June 8, yet the air crackled with tension. It was the first day of an emotionally charged non-jury trial that resonated with meaning for gay Californians negotiating the perilous terrain of domestic partnership and HIV.

That gay relationships are fraught with ambiguity, existing in a legal limbo where rights and responsibilities remain undefined, never was made more clear than in the case of *Robinson v. Louie*, brought to trial in Montali's bankruptcy court by Waukeen Q. McCoy and Michael Fluetsch, attorneys for plaintiff Mychal Robinson.

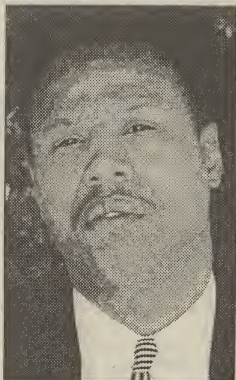
The trial served both as a sort of morality play and a warning to those who set up house with a lover without adequately formalizing the arrangements.

Overtly, the dispute revolved around notions of gay marriage and the duty of one partner to inform the other about being HIV-positive. The subtext was of greed by one party or the other, or perhaps both.

Defendant Alan Louie's attorney, James Mori, questioned whether Robinson, who had been struggling financially, could rightly claim a marriage relationship that Louie denied existed (and that the state of California refuses to acknowledge), and allege unknown and unwanted exposure to (but not infection by) HIV. Through his questioning of witnesses, he tried to portray Robinson as a person intentionally manipulating the more financially secure Louie as a way to get money and property.

McCoy and Fluetsch, meanwhile, implied that Louie was greedy both in attempting to evade liability for exposing Robinson to HIV (even though, to date, Robinson has tested negative for the virus), and in withholding half of all he owns from his divorced "husband."

At issue in the trial, which continued through Wednesday, was whether Robinson and Louie, now bitterly estranged, at one time considered themselves to be married, and whether, during that marriage, Louie committed fraud and sexual



Mychal Robinson

battery by failing to disclose to Robinson, before engaging in unprotected sex, the fact that he was HIV-positive. The two were living together in Louie's Noe Valley house at the time of the alleged incidents.

The charges of fraud and sexual battery, in a civil case, are adjudicated as torts rather than as criminal acts.

The matter, which started out in a San Francisco superior court in October 1996 ended up in Montali's court after Louie filed a voluntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition. According to McCoy and co-counsel Fluetsch, that maneuver appeared to be a strategy for avoiding having to pay Robinson monetary damages.

Unprotected sex

McCoy and Fluetsch initially asked the court to award Robinson \$500,000 cash; alternatively, they wanted one-half of Louie's assets and unspecified punitive damages. In briefs filed with the court, they argued Louie should not be allowed to use bankruptcy as a shield against having to pay Robinson monetary damages.

In a preliminary decision rendered in the case last September, Montali denied Robinson the chance to recover damages for intentional infliction of emotional distress, breach of partnership, and breach of fiduciary duty, among other things, but allowed McCoy and Fluetsch to argue that their client was entitled to compensation for fraud and sexual battery.

"It should be noted that Louie's knowledge of his HIV status gave rise to a duty to disclosure and fair dealing with his sexual

partners," wrote Montali.

On Monday, Robinson told the court Louie lied in asserting he had told Robinson the truth of his HIV status in 1992, long before their marriage. In fact, said Robinson, Louie twice told him he was HIV-negative.

Had he known Louie was HIV-positive, said Robinson, he would not have had sex with him, protected or otherwise.

Robinson told the court, under oath, that he first met Louie about 12 years ago at the home of a mutual friend, and that the two maintained a non-sexual friendship until October 1995 when they decided to marry and live together permanently, sharing their expenses and assets. Louie was to act as "primary breadwinner," while Robinson, who gave up an unprofitable hairdressing and interior design business to commit to the relationship, was to devote himself to maintaining the couple's household.

Louie told the court that when he invited Robinson to move in, he had recently ended "a marriage" to another man. He denied, however, that he and Robinson were similarly betrothed. Instead, he termed their relationship "a friendship."

"We did not enter into a marriage in any way," testified Louie. Rather, they were friends who occasionally slept together.

Contrary to Louie's assertion, Robinson insisted the two held "a private marriage ceremony in front of the fireplace" at which time they consummated their union sexually. Robinson penetrated Louie, using a condom, and Louie gave Robinson oral sex. Prior to that moment, the two had remained platonic.

"I loved Alan," testified Robinson. "I trusted him."

Thereafter the two engaged in anal sex once or twice daily, with Robinson always being the top. He testified he continued using condoms until, on one occasion when the condom began to slip off, Louie told him he didn't need it, and helped remove it from Robinson's penis. Louie then allegedly encouraged Robinson to penetrate him without the sheath. Subsequently, the two had unprotected anal sex on several occasions.

Secret drugs

The relationship began to fall apart in about December 1995 or

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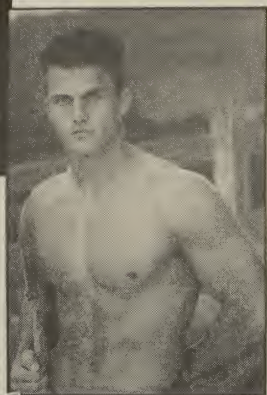


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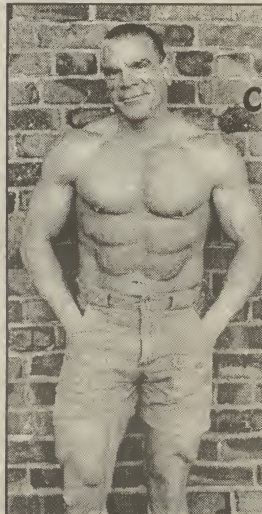
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Tropical depression

Last week the B.A.R. broke the story that some Cayman Islands officials planned to hold a meeting in San Francisco to boost tourism in that wretched island nation. The Caymans, as many readers are aware, rejected a boatload of gay and lesbian travelers last winter for no reason except their sexual orientation, and defended their action by saying gay people couldn't be counted on to behave appropriately.

Apparently, although Cayman officials can dish out inhospitality, they cannot take it. The B.A.R. story came out Thursday; the San Francisco meeting was canceled Friday morning. However, as M.R. Richards reports on page 20, the Caymanites erroneously believed they could get away with a similar meeting in Sacramento this week; instead of a congenial shmoozefest, they were treated to an expression of community outrage. It is good to know gay activism has not expired in Northern California — although it has been reported dead more times than Bob Hope, its heart continues to beat. Congratulations to those Sacto activists who make up its life-support system.

And a plague upon the Caymans — a bunch of slag heaps that break the water's surface just far enough to erect some banks for drug dealers and other lowlifes to patronize, without which it would have an economy not much better than Haiti's — and upon its officials, for being so deluded and vicious.

It would seem that delusional viciousness is epidemic in that corner of the globe, actually, what with Pat Robertson's prediction on Wednesday that Florida will suffer hurricanes this year because of the recent Gay Day celebration at Walt Disney World. If this signals that Robertson is planning to quit his evil work at the Christian Coalition to take up meteorology, it's good news. If it's just another chance for him to get his doughy face broadcast into millions of living

rooms, it's typically bad news.

It's also stupid, for many reasons. The homo hoards have been holding Disney Gay Days for more than a decade now, so unless the Deity is a terrible procrastinator, it seems unlikely the 1998 celebration would suddenly appear at the top of God's "To Do" list now. Moreover, the networks have reported upon El Niño's damage for nearly a year, including the effects it is expected to have on the Atlantic hurricane season, so Robertson's prediction is about as difficult to make as, say, predicting San Francisco will get fog this year.

Most of all, it shows the kind of ugly God that Robertson envisions. We don't happen to believe that the Creator mows down innocent people's trailers and wipes out life savings over crowds at a theme park.

But if the hurricanes *do* come, we hope Robertson will take note of the damage. Those storms normally drive people from their homes; destroy businesses and ruin careers; splinter families; and kill the defenseless.

Just like homophobia.

Wednesday brought another heaping helping of homophobia in the guise of spiritual leadership. Southern Baptists denounced "the perversion of homosexuality" in the first change made to its so-called "Faith and Message" statement in more than 25 years. It also mandated that women "must submit" to males.

As is always the case when spiritual leaders forsake the spirit to attempt to crush it, our concerns are mostly for the youths who will suffer. The Southern Baptists were not always so conservative, but a series of extremely hostile takeovers by some power-mad men (of course) has diverted the denomination from its populist roots and apparently patterned it upon Iran.

We hope to see President Clinton, Vice President Gore, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, and House Speaker Newt Gingrich (all of whom say they are Southern Baptists) defend the American way of life and dissociate themselves from the ayatollahs. Perhaps this kind of thing could have been avoided if the nation's leaders had been stronger in their condemnation of the Promise Keepers, the religious group that first proposed subjecting American women. Certainly those leaders need to be aware that silence now can be read as complicity.

Two more things, both of them having to do with death: the political funeral of Washington activist Steve Michael

should reinforce to everyone that the AIDS epidemic is not over. Surprisingly, this is even a point that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and ACT UP/San Francisco agree on: combination therapy cannot eradicate HIV from the system, and there is still *no cure* for AIDS. Prevention is still the best weapon.

The other thing involves the increasing danger faced by pedestrians in San Francisco. Last Saturday a gay man was struck and killed at Market and Noe, one of the many crossroads in this town that could be dubbed The Intersection of the Damned. Two other problematic corners are in the immediate area of the proposed new community center: where Market meets Laguna, and where it meets Octavia. As the gay neighborhood grows further beyond Castro, the subject of traffic safety becomes more and more a gay/lesbian concern. The same is as true (or more so) South of Market. We urge drivers to remember to drive through others' neighborhoods just as carefully as their own, and remind pedestrians to be aware of their surroundings. It's a matter of life and death. ▼



Editorial

Thumbs up in Nebraska for the Millennium March on Washington

by Rodney Allen Bell, II, B.A.

The Millennium March on Washington (MMOW), a controversial and political hot potato within the queer community, is being perceived from each person's "world view" or "frame of reference." As I have read each activist's opinion regarding the MMOW, I have formulated my own view as an activist in the queer midwest and a past activist for eight years in Nebraska.

What are the real issues? Various activists and organizations have slammed personalities involved (such as Robin Tyler) and groups involved (such as Metropolitan Community Church, the Human Rights Campaign, etc.), accusing organizers of being hasty and not inclusive of others or not being concerned about the state marches planned, and generally maligning and degrading the efforts put forth by the MMOW committee. This is unfortunate.

I attended the MMOW 1993 and was very taken with it. It was inclusive: there were people of every race, color, ethnicity, gender, transgender, and sexuality you could imagine, and contingents representing all of the above. I did not see any single person taking credit for organizing the march. It was a collective effort. It was admirable, brought pride back to people who had lost hope in states where there is no hope, showed the true "rainbow" of the community, and made national headlines. I don't know or care if Robin Tyler or any other national activist has committed any "error in judgment." What they did was a smashing

success. I saw the myriad of the "community" like I had never seen it before.

I don't buy the rhetoric that it was exclusive and not inclusive of others. It was for everyone in the "queer community," and I use that word widely to include friendly straights, gays, lesbians, bi and transgendered persons, and the mixture of colors of people's skin was fabulous. To those who are critics of the MMOW, I say "get over it" and let's move on supporting a march that will empower our spirits, and do many other good things.

As I see it, the Millennium March on Washington 2000 offers many good things:

- 1) nationwide exposure of what our community is composed of;
- 2) a nationwide agenda of what we are fighting for (i.e. equal treatment for g/l/b/t people in housing, employment, public accommodations, the military, youth, marriage, and healthcare);
- 3) pride that we can take back to our small states and spread to others;
- 4) a focus that will drive the right wing crazy trying to focus on showing their true colors [The March on Washington 1993 had the homophobes there - out in full drag!!!]; and
- 5) a chance to show the world that we have not forgotten what the issues are and we are still going to come together every decade and bring them back to the table of concerns, whether they like it or not.

Those who choose not to endorse or participate are losing something very im-

portant and that is the part of sharing part of history and acknowledging our pride in its true colors.

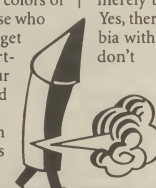
I say forgive whatever you carry around as baggage from the past and work with the present committee in bringing the best march yet. Some of the issues I've read are merely bones being thrown on the table. Yes, there is racism, sexism, and homophobia within the queer community, but if we don't work within and only

chant/rant/rave/malign the current structure we aren't going to resolve our differences. We share differences, but we ultimately are sharing the same goals. I hope that someday we won't need marches to bring out issues. The issue of classism is pervasive within the communi-

ty and from without. Dissolve America's economic system and you will solve the class problem. Create a democratic socialist America and we would have more power.

I am for the MMOW 2000 and encourage everyone to support it, if you don't like something they are doing, open a dialogue with the committee — don't air your dirty laundry in public on the Internet and in the straight media — and take some pride. Let's quit criticizing and ridiculing our leadership and affirm their guts and their willingness to take risks. Let's work together. I didn't write this because the MMOW committee wanted me to or asked me to, I wrote it because it's what I believe in.

Let's stop the bickering and get down to business. Enough is enough!!! ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Two cents for panhandling

On a recent Saturday walk in the Castro, I came upon protesters boycotting Hot Cookie because of the store owner's stand on panhandlers ("Create Change, Don't Hand it Out.") While I don't live in the Castro, (I'm in low-brow Hayes Valley, which has nowhere near the homeless problem of the Castro - I guess the guppy angst makes for a better prey), I am in the neighborhood a lot, and am definitely turned off by the homeless problem there.

While the ACT UP/SF protesters would like to project a unified community vision, I must get my two cents in. I remember about two years ago seeing a pretty homeless girl who would hang out near the Wells Fargo ATMs. In a period of about six months, I saw in her face an aged, worn woman. A police officer told me she was a heroin addict. Soon after, I never saw her again. All I can hope is that she found her way into a treatment center and made her way off the streets. Now, I constantly walk past a horde of homeless youth who camp out in front of Harvest Market (who by the way have heckled me with "faggot" remarks), asking for money while they use their cellular telephones and pagers. I have been told that they are a nuisance to the merchants, because they shoot up heroin in their restrooms.

My point is that when people give money to panhandlers, they should be aware that much of it goes to buying drugs, which only perpetuates a hopeless life on the streets. If people want to help above and beyond giving to qualified service agencies, I would suggest they give food not money. At least then you know you are giving them something healthy.

Unfortunately, the homeless problem is not a simple black and white issue, as ACT UP/SF would like everyone to believe. Not all hard working merchants of Castro are evil because they do not want their customers to be harassed, and not all homeless panhandlers are innocent people who slipped through the cracks. As for me, I applaud anyone who offers solutions. I will shop at Hot Cookie and any other store ACT UP/SF decides to arbitrarily target, and I encourage people who care about the quality of life in the Castro to do the same. Promoting the status quo is a cop out, not a solution.

Brad Pitney
San Francisco

Crumby behavior

I want to take this time to personally thank ACT UP/SF for their informative protest this past weekend against that pillar of hate, Hot Cookie. We should be proud that our community has a group like ACT UP/SF thinking for us and protecting us from such dark forces like Hot Cookie. I shudder at the thought of the diabolical plans Hot Cookie might be "cooking up" right now. Please ACT UP/SF, save us!!!

By the way, Fred Phelps and his roving band of scum also slithered into the Castro to spread their message of "God Hates Fags" and "Thank God of AIDS." I guess you cookie crumblers were too busy to notice.

Ronny Marshall
San Francisco

Beggars can't beat cruisers

First, let me say I do not agree with the sign campaign going on in my neighborhood, any more than I like being accosted for change every three feet while trying to get into my door. But, I don't agree at all with the protest organized by ACT UP/SF. Michael Bellefontaine states he loves the Castro and doesn't want to give gay merchants a hard time, then he shouldn't (period).

Now, for the part of the article that brought me to writing this letter. You have a quote by someone named Sean, that asked why it is OK for gays to come to Castro to cruise, but not for panhandlers to come asking for spare change. For one thing, I am not asking for someone I cruise to part with something that I did not earn or deserve. This is comparing apples and oranges. How he equates "spare changing" to "cruising" confounds me.

In case you're wondering, I've been known to part with money on occasion. More frequently though, I will give someone food. I also support the Simply Super program at MCC. What I would like to ask Mr. Bellefontaine and all of his cohorts, and Patrick Batt and all his cohorts, "What have you personally done/contributed to helping this disenfranchised community?" I don't want to hear about the contributions that MUM has given to various programs and agencies, especially when that money is money that has been collected at events such as Pink Saturday. This money was never yours anyway. You are just passing it through. Thanks for letting me rant. Oh, and just so you don't think I am a neighborhood outsider, I live right at the Castro/18th St. cross.

Keith Folger
San Francisco

More cookies! Fewer nuts!

On a recent Saturday afternoon I was in the Castro running errands. I could not help but notice the demonstration outside the business of Hot Cookie. Having no qualms of "taking it to the streets" over the past two decades, I walked by to hear what the commotion was about.

ACT UP/San Francisco was screaming through a bullhorn about gay identity, how it did not include watching *Ellen*, shopping at the Gap, or eating at Hot Cookie. They cried for the gays of the Castro to collectively "have a heart" and be "compassionate" to the homeless. This would be done by boycotting any business for having endorsed a campaign to discourage panhandling and support of positive efforts to end the cycle of individual homelessness and drug addiction evident on our crowded streets.

I responded in the only immediate way I could; I went in to buy a cookie. I did not really want one (I wound up eating only half of it), nor did the three people who came in with me. We all claimed to be in there to support the business that has attempted to look honestly at a sadly unchanging situation. As I left, the ACT UP/San Francisco member with the bull horn screamed at me, "go ahead and eat that cookie, get another zit and get another acne scar" (yes, I have them from my adolescence). Was this an example of that face of compassion that he spoke of? Was this their best example and answer to having a heart? Did so many of our friends die to leave only this as the embodiment of gay rights?

I, like many others are, am very involved in my community. Apart from a continuing AIDS epidemic, I remain very active in drug rehabilitation services, pastoral care to the indigent in the city's medical facilities, and organizations whose mission is to foster a positive break in the cycle of homelessness that fills our streets. I do not have to prove this to ACT UP/San Francisco or anyone else. I do not have to be the face of gay identity that ACT UP/San Francisco has designed. I had Nazi-like people tell me who to be, what to wear, what to buy, what to do and how to do it in the straight enclaves of suburban middle America. Now free of that, I am certainly not going to let ACT UP/San Francisco do the same.

I will support any efforts to change the face of our neighborhood, that it not become the haven of drug addict panhandlers as in the Polk district. Already, no one need be hungry in this city, if they first choose to get up off their seat and walk to a meal. I, in the meantime, do not have to subsidize active drug addiction or perpetuated homelessness. I do have a right to see my charitable moneys go to support more than a new hair color, piercing or tattoo on someone I have seen repeatedly aggressively panhandle. I will support organizations and businesses that move to change problems of hunger, homelessness, and drug addiction, not turn a blind eye to it.

ACT UP/San Francisco has shown that they are not the gay conscience of this city, that they are simply mean spirited with a rabid design to foster aimlessness. Their energies would be better served trying to change the problem, support the efforts in the community like the MCC church that has a meal program, or by attending to those still dying of AIDS.

A final note: ACT UP/San Francisco, the AIDS epidemic is not over and the second epidemic taking over our lives is drug addiction. Attend to that fact, before you tell working men and women in the Castro how and where to spend or give their hard earned money. Mindful people are not boycotting anything but your behavior; your histrionics are actually good for business.

John Pitoniak
San Francisco

All ACT UPs are not the same

During the past weeks there have been street confrontations and alleged physical violence involving ACT UP/San Francisco regarding the Castro Merchants' "Create Change" campaign.

Following on to these confrontations, some community members have asked about the relationship between ACT UP/San Francisco and ACT UP/Golden Gate.

ACT UP/Golden Gate is not in any way associated with ACT UP/San Francisco.

ACT UP/Golden Gate is committed to direct action and civil disobedience when necessary to defend the interests of people with AIDS, but we do not condone or participate in physical threats or violence.

Our work involves research and advocacy on behalf of people with AIDS regarding AIDS treatment, medical care, prevention and services. We do not take money from pharmaceutical companies.

Anyone who wants to learn about or participate in our work is invited to our weekly open public meetings at 592B Castro Street, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Don Howard
ACT UP/Golden Gate

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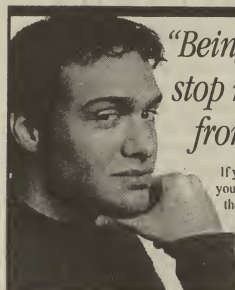
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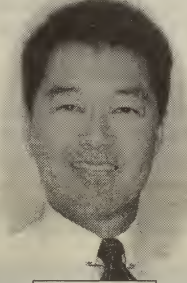
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Mr. P and Mr. P: Two Ps in a pod?

The last two editions of the *B.A.R.* bring to light a very important observation about our community and the evolution of AIDS activism. In the May 22 edition, letter writer David Pasquarelli of ACT UP/San Francisco delivered his usual histrionics and misinformation about the status of protease inhibitor research (very nicely handled by the *B.A.R.* letters editor, who simply responded with the facts). In the May 29 issue, we learn that Michael Petrelis has taken his "I really, really hate Pat" campaign into the welcoming bosom of the evil Family Research Council, which also hates Pat, for among other things, her heroic work with needle exchange. Now we have *il duce* Gary Bauer and his right wing minions off on a mad search for corruption in AIDS agencies, assured by Petrelis that the money is going to salaries and fat-cat lobbying rather than services. If anything, Derek Gordon of the AIDS Foundation may have understated just how much needless pain and damage this may bring.

One point we should be getting out of this is that people like Pasquarelli and Petrelis, who take pride in posturing as anarchists and the extreme left wing of queer thought, are actually the right wing fascists of our movement. Who else runs around town spitting and screaming in the faces of the people they disagree with? Who else runs to the right wing enemies of our community for support, whether it be the Reaganesque FRC or the right wingers and religious creationist cabal surrounding Duesberg and the rest of the "HIV is harmless" crowd? At some point, the broader community needs to ask just who this tiny but very loud group of people represent, other than themselves as individuals? When Petrelis or others make claims about salaries and services, maybe its time someone asked just what services they provide and who benefits from them? Who pays for Petrelis' cross-country trips? Who pays when ACT UP/San Francisco appears around the country at PETA rallies and "HIV is harmless" events?

While we all bemoan the decline in AIDS activism and AIDS activist organizations, how many people are inspired to volunteer their time to groups with people like Petrelis or Pasquarelli? SFAF was never intended to take responsibility for all AIDS-related issues. Yet as "AIDS advocacy" is reduced to finger pointing and physical abuse, collusion with AIDS enemies, scapegoating and posturing, organizations like SFAF quietly take up the slack. Accountability? Fine. But make yourselves accountable, too. Are your numbers growing or declining? Are your tactics effective or tired? How does the community at large perceive your contribution to fighting the epidemic? Where are the independent audits of your own activities?

Many people have advised me not to speak out on these issues because anyone who does quickly finds him or her self centered in the sunspots of our loud little fascists, a fate I sometimes escape when their fire is turned on someone else. But we all should have learned the mistake of silence in the face of fascism from Nazi Germany. As far as I can tell, SFAF provides vastly more in the way of services to people with AIDS than all its critics put together. And sure, there's room for improvement and greater community input - but they are doing important work that often goes completely unrecognized by their critics. Some current resentment toward the foundation stems from the fact that more and more of their services are being directed at the poorest of the poor, the fastest growing and most expensive to serve AIDS population.

While I would wish that anyone facing a life-threatening illness would receive all the services they deem necessary, that may not always be possible under our healthcare system. To solve that problem, Petrelis ought to be turning his fire against the conservative monsters he's currently sucking up to. They - not Pat Christen - are the real enemy. Instead, Pat will now have to use even more of her time fending off relentless right wing attacks.

Were I offered a similar or even higher pay scale, I wouldn't take Pat Christen's thankless job, and I'd hate to see the quality of fiscal responsibility and program management we'd get from people willing to do the job for half her pay or less. Managerial incompetence from well intended but inadequately skilled people was the hallmark of the early years of AIDS service agencies throughout the nation.

After listening to this debate for the last year, and now seeing it tossed willfully into the hands of our most vicious right wing enemies, I can only say enough is enough. That Petrelis would run to the FRC because Democratic congresspeople wouldn't return his ranting phone calls should tell us all we ever need to know - that this is about him, not the needs of people with AIDS. And when groups like ACT UP/SF cozy up to people claiming HIV is harmless, to theocratic creationists, and the Hoover Institute, we should know what interests are really at play here - even if they don't.

As Derek Gordon said, the really sad thing is that real activists will now be left with cleaning up this mess for years to come. How that is going to benefit people with AIDS is utterly beyond me.

Martin Delaney
Founding director, Project Inform

What you don't know can hurt you

Poor John S. Connelly III (Letters, 5/28/98), still upset about something I never said over seven years ago. He seems to think that I advocate for queers to "turn the other cheek and just take our licks as best we could" when we are gay-bashed.

Here's the real issue: Carrying a weapon to protect yourself against an attack doesn't work, unless you know how to use that weapon properly. In other words, that mace, knife, or gun you are carrying can and will be used against you, if you are unsure of how to use it! That's bad news!

I am glad that Mr. Connelly feels confident in the use of his knife, but for the rest of us I still encourage you to take a self-defense class, carry a whistle and know how to use it, and to run like hell if you have to. The point is saving your own ass.

One more thing, San Francisco is fortunate to have perhaps the best anti-violence services in the country. However, until there is a sea-change in the public's attitudes towards us, we are still in danger. Rather than blame CUAV for that, why not join the Speaker's Bureau and help to fight against the real problem: homophobia.

Jill R. Tregor
Executive Director, Intergroup Clearinghouse
San Francisco

Censorship = blasphemy

On the remote chance that anyone might care what Jesus would think about the Terrence McNally controversy, I call your attention to Matthew 12: 31:32. "On this account I say to you, every sort of sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven. For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things, nor in that to come."

You would be hard pressed to find a more emphatic condemnation of censorship, especially in this instance.

David J. Pini
San Francisco

Criminal breasts

When bare-chested women ride and march in our Lavender parade, they won't be covered by any local skin-law.

But when a "female," age five or older, steps onto Civic Center Plaza, she'll be under SF. Park Code section 4.01 (h): "No person shall, in any park, without permission of the Recreation and Park Department: ... (h) Expose his or her genitals, public hair, buttocks, perineum, anal region or public hair region or any portion of the female breast at or below the areola thereof, except that this section shall not apply to children under the age of five years."

This 1981 ordinance explicitly criminalizes "the female breast," while leaving other breasts free to go bare. In the case of some San Franciscans, such as my former M2F lover, a cop would need to guess at her legal gender, in order to weigh the guilt or innocence of her breasts.

Freedom-loving citizens, especially libertarian feminists, should struggle to repeal 4.01 (h). Please phone or e-mail your Supervisors. And discuss this and related skin issues with SUN members at Baker Beach, July 11, Saturday at noon. Look for our rainbow flag in the clothing optional zone.

If you're an experienced activist (preferably non-male) who can lead this effort, please write to: SUN, Box 426937, SF, CA 94142.

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Harder to stop racism

Thank you, Cynthia Laird, for your ongoing coverage of the issues of the San Francisco HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC). As you reported in the *B.A.R.* ["Cultural competency needed for HPPC members, staff, consultants," June 4], members of the council recently recommended that Harder+Company staff providing technical support to the council receive cultural competency training. This recommendation arose in the wake of an incident involving one of our staff. As the team leader of the technical support consultants, I take council members' concerns about cultural insensitivity very seriously. I recognize that providing technical assistance to this council requires not only a technical understanding of the epidemic, but also insight into the role of culture and power in our society. We completely accept the recommendations of the Cultural Competency Task Force (which you summarized in your article), and have established a plan to improve our cultural competency, which we will share with the council at the next meeting.

Lyn Paleo
Senior Associate, Harder+Company
San Francisco

POLITICS

Primary flying colors

by Wayne Friday

California's first-ever open primary last week drew more voters to the polls than many previous primaries. While some of those voters crossed party lines, the crossovers were apparently not pivotal in either the race for governor or U.S. senator.

The June 2 primary brought out 42 percent of the state's registered voters, as compared to 35 percent in 1994. The "blanket primary," in which voters of any party could choose any candidate, appears to have reversed a nearly two-decade-old trend toward waning voter participation.

According to an extensive CNN-Los Angeles Times exit poll conducted on election day among 5,000 voters, 15 percent of the votes cast last week were by independent voters who had never before voted. The same poll demonstrated that crossover voting played a small part in the election's final results.

Indeed, both **Gray Davis**, the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, and **Matt Fong**, the Republican U.S. Senate nominee, won without the help of voters of other parties. While the CNN-Times poll indicated that Davis won 13 percent of the Republican vote, he also took 52 percent of the Democratic vote as well as 42 percent of

the independents. Consequently, Republican crossovers were not a factor in Davis' win over **Al Checchi** and **Jane Harman**. Among Republicans, seven percent voted for Checchi while five percent went for Harman. Among independent voters, 15 percent went for Harman and 13 percent for Checchi.

In the GOP race for the U.S. Senate nomination, the respected CNN-Times poll showed that while state Treasurer **Matt Fong** pulled 39 percent of his party's vote, as compared to 36 percent for multimillionaire **Darrell Issa**, what really helped Fong was the independent voters. More than one-fifth of last Tuesday's independent voters picked Fong; Issa drew only 13 percent; and Democrat **Barbara Boxer** picked up half of all independent votes cast.

Whether Republican Fong can hold on to the 10 percent of the Democratic vote he got last week in the November general election remains to be seen. Although Fong beat Issa handily in Northern California, the area is considered strong Boxer territory, and she is expected to take back most of Fong's Democratic votes in November.

Some loyal Boxer voters admitted to voting for Fong last week because they reportedly wanted to protect Boxer in November from Darrell Issa's deep pockets. Others allegedly voted for Issa in the belief that his right-wing conservatism would make him an easier target for the incumbent senator.

While the crossover vote in the U.S. Senate primary did help Fong, most political observers from both parties think it did not play a big enough role to make a difference. The crossover vote in the governor's race had an interesting wrinkle, however. According to the same CNN-Times poll,



True Britt: Supe Barbara Kaufman wishes former Supe Harry Britt (center) a happy 60th birthday at a June 4 Basic Rights Oregon fundraiser while new Supe Mark Leno looks on.

one in four Republican voters chose a Democratic candidate in the primary — much to the delight of the state Democratic Party.

Clearly, this defection was at least partially the result of GOP women who find arch-conservative **Dan Lungren** unacceptable, if for no other reason than his highly publicized pro-life stand. While all three Democratic candidates were pro-choice, Lungren is a staunch abortion opponent who stands to lose many women voters within his party to Davis in November on that issue alone.

When state Democratic Party officials examine the June 2 results, they have to be pleased, especially as they look ahead to the Davis-Lungren gubernatorial battle. As one top Demo strategist put it this week, "We [Democrats] having been saying for a year now that we hated the open primary process, but it now looks like we will be the first long-term beneficiaries, particularly as long as the Republicans nominate right-wing candidates like Dan Lungren."

Political potpourri

Campaign officials in both the Lungren and Fong camps are very unhappy that they have to go into heavily Republican, voter-rich Orange County in November with despised former Congressman **Bob Dornan** on the ticket with them as the GOP nominee for Congress. Dornan, hated almost as much by fellow Republicans as by Democrats, can in no way help Lungren and Fong with the large Hispanic vote now centered in Orange County. This bloc is sure to come out big time for Democratic Representative **Loretta Sanchez**, who beat Dornan in 1996.

They'll never cop to it, but those in charge of Senator Barbara Boxer's re-election campaign are reportedly pleased that they don't have to face more of Darrell Issa's millions in November. Matt Fong's campaign is broke, but Boxer has nearly \$4 million in the bank. Although the national GOP is sure to come through for Fong, Boxer is getting off to a better start and is now a slight favorite to beat him in five months.

Someone has got to do something about the notoriously slow vote count in the San Francisco Registrar's Office. The Santa Clara

County vote was 100 percent complete late Tuesday night, while only half of the SF vote was in and well past June 2, the absentee voter count was still not complete here. Replacing one incompetent registrar with yet another is not the answer to this maddeningly familiar election-day event.

How about those silly candidates for the Democratic County Central Committee, many of whom spent thousands only to get their asses kicked? Now let's get those crappy campaign signs that are plastered illegally on the city's utility poles torn down and collected!

East Bay Congresswoman **Ellen Tauscher** took a surprising 55 percent of the total vote in last Tuesday's open primary. She looks like a shoo-in for re-election!

Yuba County's **Virginia Black**, a Republican, became the state's first-ever elected sheriff by defeating the incumbent last week.

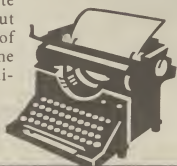
Dennis Peron picked up what some would say is a respectable 65,500 votes in his race for governor. No big thing perhaps, but maybe enough to think about running for supervisor, Dennis?

Hayward Mayor **Roberta Cooper** told residents there that she is "thrilled" with the election last week of openly gay **Kevin Dowling** to the City Council.

Forced out of the Legislature by term limits, no less than five politicians used their name recognition and fundraising ability to capture their parties' nominations and get on the November ballot for other state offices last week: **Cruz Bustamante** (D-lieutenant governor), **Bill Lockyer** (D-attorney general), **Diane Martinez** (D-insurance commissioner), **Curt Pringle** (R-treasurer) and **Tim Leslie** (R-lieutenant governor).

The battle between members of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC) and the MCC's Rev. **Jim Mitulski** is getting nasty. One of said merchants told me this week that "Jim is trying to become the Cecil Williams of the Castro. He won't be happy until he has food lines outside his church for blocks." The entrepreneur added, "It's easy for Jim. He doesn't even live in the Castro."

Frankly, I see little wrong with merchants displaying signs that read "Create Change, Don't Hand It Out." They're only encouraging people to donate to social service organizations rather than some of the area's professional panhandlers, many of whom aren't homeless to begin with. ▼



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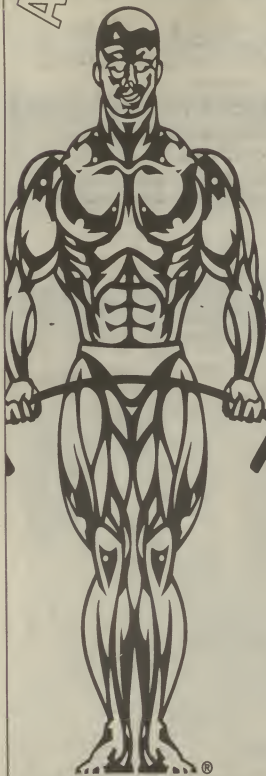
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Stranger than science!

by Beth Elliott

Let's Do the Time Warp Again Dept.: All Bay Area Reporter writers are time travelers of a sort: we write for the future, turning in our copy far enough in advance of the publication date to allow the folks down on Ninth Street to work their wizardry, production-wise. That being the case, I'm going to try to work some real magic with "the magic of deadlines" and trust that Mr. Marcus is back in the saddle by the time you see these words in print. Mr. Marcus, on whom the title of Dean of the Leather Columnists would not be misplaced, had one of those good news, bad news occurrences the other week. The bad news was that he took to feeling quite poorly; the good news was that he wasn't ailing as badly as it was feared he might be. By the time I heard he was in the VA Hospital, word was not to worry, he'd be out shortly. In the words of Groucho Marx, "I certainly hope so!"

Mr. Marcus deserves your well wishes, so by all means keep those cards and letters coming in. To put in perspective how long Mr. Marcus has been actively involved in growing and promoting this community, he was the first Emperor of San Francisco ... a title that goes back to when your columnist was a fresh young les-

people are always telling me what an asset I make of myself every week here on page 10.

Meanwhile, back at the homecoming game between More Science High and Communist Martyrs High ... yes, we warm up with one Firesign Theater riff before punching up their shocking announcement: Everything you know is wrong! Don't believe me? Just ask Benjamin Franklin, the only president of the United States who was never president of the United States.

There has been a flurry of shocking stories in the news lately, challenging a number of seemingly obvious facts, dearly held beliefs, and sometimes both at once.

Even those cynical enough to savor each report were still taken by surprise. These reports have been so stunning and shocking that one could turn a familiar saying on its head and observe that the run of unanticipated news has been a tragedy to those who feel and a comedy to those who think—because openness to new facts has been the only way to hang with the curveballs thrown (mostly by science).

Ready for one shocking headline? Asbestos Does Not Increase Your Risk of Lung Cancer! A study in Quebec has found that exposure to moderate levels of asbestos does

sweetie and me to replace all our heater ducts (which cost \$1,100) because asbestos might waft out of our basement and into her townhouse—where she believed it would hang in the air, impervious to the force of gravity. We went along with that, but then she insisted we have the ground in the crawl space sealed off. This despite the fact that a particle test registered at the threshold of dust detection, period—even had all that dust been asbestos, it still would have been a thousand times safer than EPA standards.

We later found out her source book was an EPA contractors' guide for doing major steel-frame building abatement ... this incident was the beginning of the end of both our friendship and my patience with lesbian health belief systems.

Next shocking fact: Environmental Racism's Victims Are White! The *Detroit News* has reported that the EPA, while attempting to promote "environmental justice," shelved its own report on all 1,234 Superfund sites showing white people were disproportionately represented among those living within one mile of such sites—89% in the upper Midwest. Moreover, household income near the sites is higher than the national average—no environmental classism, either. No harm, no foul? Some of us think knowing there's less racism around than some suspect is good news.

Smoking Prevents Breast Cancer! In women who have a mutated BRCA gene, smoking seems to confer some protection against breast cancer—possibly by suppressing estrogen and its metabolites—according to *Science News*. That's just a mutation of one gene, or we'd be faced with the scary thought of nicotine as an antidote for environmental estrogens.

And, perhaps most disillusioning to many ... The Dalai Lama Eats Meat! Yes, according to the *New Yorker*, the Dalai Lama alternates vegetarian days with carnivorous days for health reasons. ... Om Mani Padme Hunter-Gatherer? A trendy Manhattan veggie restaurant, Zen Palace, knocked itself out making their signature box lunches for monks taking part in a teaching; the Dalai Lama expressed gratitude, but went back to his hotel and ordered a steak from room service. ▼

There has been a flurry of shocking stories in the news lately, challenging a number of seemingly obvious facts.

bian hippie chick. Hmmm, poor analogy ... it could be argued, I never completely stopped being a hippie chick ... just got out into more of the world and gained some age and treachery to go along with the youth and skill ... and the same might be said for the "fresh" part ... but I digress.

If what it takes to bounce up is the proverbial "piss and vinegar," then he's as good as new, right enough. Still, I hope my readers will take a moment to wish him all good health; if this community has ever meant anything to you, Mr. Marcus is one of the people who made that possible. I know I must be inspired as a B.A.R. columnist by his community work, because

not appear to significantly increase a person's risk of developing lung cancer, reported the *Washington Post*. Women who lived within three miles of an asbestos plant before modern pollution controls had no more lung cancer than women in other rural areas of the province. The billions of dollars spent to remove it from public buildings may have been "overkill"—just like the hysteria of those who mistake particles for a radiant carcinogen like plutonium.

That would be the former neighbor who co-owned the old homestead with my ex-lover and me, and lived in the in-law unit out back. She demanded our property agreement bind my

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ABC News questions sodomy laws

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

The May 26 ABC News special *Sex, Drugs, and Consenting Adults* with John Stossel focused on differing opinions about whether several behaviors should be decriminalized, including consensual adult sexual activity, prostitution, drug use, and selling pornography.

The show included a segment with openly lesbian lawyer Robin Shahar, whose job offer was withdrawn by Georgia Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Michael Bowers, who cited the state's sodomy law as justification. Stossel then interviewed Fran Shahar, Robin's domestic partner, as well as two Georgia legislators with differing opinions about same-gender relationships. Stossel provides well-rounded coverage of a complex situation, including questioning the hypocrisy of Bowers' dismissal of Shahar supposedly based on sodomy law while Bowers himself had had an extended extramarital affair with a woman, also in violation of the letter of Georgia law (A full transcript of the program is available online at: http://www.abcnews.com/onair/abcnewsspecials/transcripts/specials_stossel980526_trans.html).

Please thank ABC News for exploring on prime time television the fact that two women Stossel identifies as "married in a religious ceremony" still face job action and dismissal because of archaic sodomy laws.

Contact ABC News, 47 West 66th St., New York, NY 10023, fax: 212.456.7777, e-mail: abcquest@ccabc.com.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution looks at 'Gays & God'

On May 31, the first part of an Atlanta Journal-Constitution three-part series on "Gays & God" featured two articles on lesbians and gay men of faith struggling to reconcile their beliefs with religious institutions. The first story, by Journal-Constitution staff writer Gayle White, begins, "Across the country, gay and lesbian Christians are searching for a way to worship. ... some hide their sexual orientation and stay in churches that claim to love the sinner, while hating the sin. Some go to congregations founded specifically by and for homosexuals, some stay home, and some find acceptance in the pews of some traditional churches."

White looks at various churches and their stances, from acceptance to "don't ask, don't tell," to complete denunciation, and writes, "Churches that have intentionally opened themselves to gays and lesbians have lost some members because of their stand. ... [But] open gays and lesbians worship alongside their heterosexual brethren in some Atlanta churches. They serve on committees, lead liturgies [and] volunteer in children's nurseries. Their names are listed in church directories with those of the same-sex partners with whom they sit comfortable in services, sharing hymnals and occasionally holding hands."

The second article, by staff writer John Blake, focuses on the unique struggle of black churches regarding the issue of homosexuality. Blake begins by profiling Rev. Antonio Jones, a preacher who used to condemn homosexuality and "unmask gay people from the pulpit," but is now openly gay, leading "a predominantly black congregation open to the gay community." Blake continues, "While predominantly white denominations vigorously debate the inclusion of homosexuals, black churches refuse even to talk about the issue. Not one major black denomination in Atlanta or the nation has formally considered the inclusion of homosexuals." He also interviews a number of African-American religious leaders and openly gay black Christians.

"Many in the black church are reluctant to discuss homosexuality because there is a widespread belief that it is a sickness blacks learned from white people," Blake writes. "And many black women scorn homosexuality because they say it diminishes a short supply of desirable black men. ... [But] AIDS has forced the black church to confront its hostility toward homosexuality [and] a new generation of pastors is becoming better educated, being taught to take a more critical look at traditional biblical beliefs."

Contact John Walter, Managing Editor, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, PO Box 4689, Atlanta, GA 30303-2899, fax: 404.526.5610, e-mail: jwalter@ajc.com

Dallas paper discusses cultural conflicts of science

The May 31 Dallas Morning News featured an interesting ar-

ticle on the ways in which science will not solve the cultural struggle against anti-gay bias and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Reporter Aline McKenzie points to both Simon LeVay's now-famous hypothalamus study and the recent study by University of Texas researcher Dennis McFadden about the possible differences in the inner ear between heterosexual women and lesbians.

"Such biological studies are part of one of today's biggest cultural debates: whether being gay is inborn-and, by extension, either a trait worthy of political protection or a defect needful of a cure, or whether it's a choice. The best biologists can say is that sexual orientation seems to be fixed by early childhood by some unknown combination of genetic, social and hormonal influences," McKenzie writes.

"The political questions are no clearer, the researchers say. To them, what underlies sexual orientation and how society should treat gay people are entirely separate questions, and the meaning of their findings has been greatly exaggerated."

McKenzie interviews a host of scientists, even including the much-discredited Joseph Nicolosi, who claims he can "cure" gay men. Even Nicolosi, who spends much time claiming being gay is a "pathology," concedes sexual orientation is both biological and environmental. The story outlines much of the biological research currently reported, as well as the ways in which each study has been problematized.

Please thank the Dallas Morning News for a thought-provoking discussion of this controversial subject.

Contact Ralph Langer, Editor, Dallas Morning News, PO Box 655237, Dallas, TX 75265-5237, fax: 214.977.8319, e-mail: national@dallasnews.com

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.





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25% of sissies grow up het

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Can you relate to Ludovic, the child whose gender-bending exploits brought him so much grief in the film *Ma Vie En Rose*? If you're gay, your own childhood was probably marked by at least a hint of Ludovic's pain. Quite likely, you were exposed to homophobia before you even knew your own sexual orientation.

At a very young age, gender-nonconformist children internalize society's negative reactions. Here's part of an interview that psychiatrist Richard Green, author of the 1987 book *The "Sissy-Boy" Syndrome*, had with a very feminine five-year-old boy named Bobby:

RG: What if there was a little boy who wanted to do things that girls did?

Bobby: That wouldn't be very good. Because he's just being bad.

RG: How would the little boy know that was bad?

Bobby: His mother would tell him.

RG: What would his friends say?

Bobby: That he's acting like a girl. They'd tease him.

RG: What about daddy?

Bobby: He'd say:

"Stop doing that."

According to numerous retrospective studies, most gay men were not extremely feminine during childhood, but were less-than-typically masculine. For example, they commonly had less interest in rough-and-tumble play and contact sports than their peers. Yet even this degree of unmasculinity can evoke a lot of teasing or even bullying.

Lesbians have a better time of it. For one thing, the association between childhood gender-nonconformity and adult homosexuality is not as strong for girls as it is for boys. And because masculinity ranks higher than femininity in our culture, masculine girls may

RICKIE, THANK THE NICE LADY, HE MADE THE ENTIRE COSTUME HIMSELF. THE TIARA IS MINE!



not get so much abuse as feminine boys. Still, girls who are too good at athletics may face considerable taunting from their peers.

In Green's study, which lasted more than 15 years, three-quarters of the feminine boys became gay or bisexual men, one became a male-to-female transsexual, and the others became heterosexual men (since some of these were last interviewed while still in their teens, the final numbers may change). Green also studied a comparison group of conventionally gendered boys; one of these became bisexual, all the others became heterosexual.

One of the striking findings of Green's study was that most of his feminine boys became much more masculine in adulthood. That happened to Bobby. At five, he would sometimes claim to actually be a girl, but when Green interviewed him again at age 17, he said: "I can't picture myself being a female. The only advantage they have is that they can have multiple orgasms."

Still, there are some ways in which strongly gender-noncon-

formist boys remain atypical in adulthood. For example, they are much more likely than other gay men to prefer the receptive role in anal sex, according to Jim Weinrich and his colleagues at the University of California, San Diego.

Perhaps a more important way in which childhood gender-nonconformity influences a person's adult life is through society's reaction to it. That is, a boy who is maltreated on account of his unmasculinity may develop a self-loathing that attaches to his gayness as an adult. This may show itself as a refusal to come out of the closet, an obsessive cultivation of a masculine image, or an intolerance of overtly feminine gay men.

Homosexuality was taken off the list of mental disorders in the U.S. in 1973, yet strongly gender-nonconformist children are still officially sick; they have the "gender-identity disorder of childhood" (GID). In my view, this classification should be deleted too, since it is an invitation for parents and doctors to undertake corrective measures. Still, most gender-variant children receive far more positive treatment from psychiatrists than they used to. Gone, for the most part, are the harsh behavior-modification protocols. In general, psychiatrists who see these children today try to help them to deal with an intolerant world, rather than to become something that they are not.

In the broader society too, the situation for gender-nonconformist kids has improved a lot. The key factor here has been the women's movement, which has done so much to reduce the status gap between the sexes. Because of this, crossing gender boundaries is much less of a transgression than it used to be. The gay movement too has played a significant role; one of the reasons that parents have traditionally reacted so badly to gender-nonconformist behavior is the fear that their kids may become gay. The more gay people are understood and accepted, the better these children are likely to be treated.

The wild success of *Ma Vie En Rose* and its pint-sized hero(ine) bodes well for gender-nonconformist children, and for the gay adults they will likely become. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nolas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the biomedical thriller *Albrick's Gold*. He may be reached at SLeVay@aol.com. For more Queer Science columns, visit www.gay.net.

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Salvation Army

◀ page 1

don. In a letter to employees that was sent out last week, Love stated that it was a "very difficult decision," and one that was not made lightly. He also said that the Salvation Army would not be leaving San Francisco, and would continue to offer services that are not under city contract.

"The primary reason was it conflicts with our theological beliefs and that we recognize the importance of the traditional family," Love told the B.A.R.

The law requires companies that contract with the city to provide benefits to domestic partners of employees if they provide those benefits to spouses.

Catholic Charities went through a similar dilemma last year, but the Archdiocese of San Francisco successfully reached a compromise with the city when it was agreed that the employee can designate anyone in the household to receive spousal equivalent benefits. The Salvation Army followed the same procedure briefly, until it was ordered to stop by its headquarters.

Love added that the decision is expected to affect about 60 employees, although he said he anticipates some, if not the majority, of those workers may be picked up by agencies that assume the contracts. "The majority of those [workers] would be at the meals program," Love said. He added that the city contracts represent a fraction of the Salvation Army's \$18 million annual budget.

The city rejected the Salvation Army's application for a waiver, on the grounds that it is not the only organization capable of providing the services, and is therefore ineligible for sole source status.

Supervisor Leslie Katz, who co-authored the city law, told the B.A.R. that she's disappointed that Salvation Army could not come up with a way to comply with the law. "But," she added, "the city will not ever back down from discrimination. At the same time, we will ensure that provision of services continue. We can't pick and choose who we allow to discriminate and who we don't."

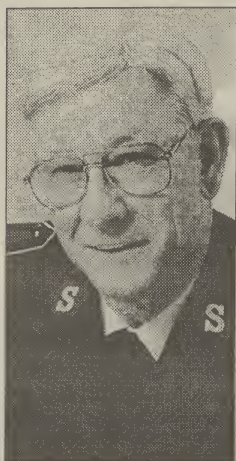
Ironically, the announcement from Salvation Army came just two days after elected officials joined others in a celebration of the first anniversary of the law with a party at City Hall on June 1.

They can cook, too

At least two nonprofits have wasted no time in trying to step in. Project Open Hand, which has a brand new large kitchen facility in the Tenderloin and provides meals for people living with HIV/AIDS, may be able to take on the meals for seniors program with another agency, said Executive Director Tom Nolan. He added that he has already talked with the mayor and other officials about the prospect.

"We're interested in taking a look at the Salvation Army contract," Nolan told the B.A.R., adding the agency is only interested in the contract that deals with food services. "We have a huge capacity in our new kitchen. We have experience, we have a head chef who is very creative, and we have domestic partner benefits."

Nolan said it's his understanding the mayor wants to act quickly to make sure there's no delay in service to people and he said that if Project Open Hand was successful in getting the contract or a portion of it, the added service would not be disruptive to its cur-



Lt. Col. Richard Love

rent clients. "Most importantly, is that we not jeopardize the people we serve," said Nolan.

Reverend Jim Mitulski of MCC-SF told the B.A.R. that "we would consider it an honor," if they received some of the Salvation Army contracts. Mitulski said church officials have contacted

Supervisor Katz and other officials, letting them know of their interest.

Geoff Kors, an attorney who helped draft the original law with others from the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club, told the B.A.R. that in fairness, the Salvation Army has stated it will not apply for the contracts because it's choosing not to comply with the law. Kors added, however, that discrimination should not be tolerated by the city.

"This is taxpayer money going to provide services and the money goes to pay employees and employee benefits," said Kors. He added that the religious entities that receive city contracts should not allow religious beliefs to enter into anything regarding contract provisions. Kors also said it's his understanding City Hall has "been flooded" with calls from other agencies inquiring about the contracts.

Ammiano said he's pleased other agencies are coming forward to take over the contracts. "It sounds very promising," he said.

In typical fashion, Ammiano put a humorous spin on the situation. "I guess I'll have to buy my dresses and shoes at Goodwill for Halloween," he said. ▼



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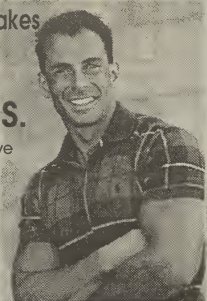
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Queer Arts Festival presents Gomez, Corinne

by Liz Highleyman

The Queer Arts Festival continues into pride season with discussions by lesbian artists Jewelle Gomez and Tee Corinne this Sunday, June 14 at the SOMAR Gallery. Gomez and Corinne will read from and discuss their work and answer questions from the audience.

Gomez is a writer, poet, and activist perhaps best known for her novel *The Gilda Stories*, which won two Lambda Literary Awards. She has received two California Council of the Arts' Artist in Residence awards and a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. On June 14 she will read a selection from *Don't Explain*, her new book of short stories.

Corinne is a visual artist, photographer and long-time political activist. Among her most well known works are *The Cunt Coloring Book* and *Femalia*. In 1997, she was awarded the Women's Caucus for Art President's Award.

The interpretive programs are a way for festival co-sponsor, the Harvey Milk Institute (HMI), to combine its educational mission with the festival's artistic events. According to HMI Executive Director Kevin Schaub, the programs will allow participants to "get behind the scenes" to see how queer art is produced and "how



Tee Corinne

queer identity informs our art and our lives."

The June 14 discussions will take place at 1 p.m. (with Gomez) and 3 p.m. (with Corinne) at SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan

Street. Both are \$5-10. For information about this and other Queer Arts Festival events, call the festival hotline at (415) 552-7709 or visit the web page at www.queerculturalcenter.org. ▼

Queer legal groups sponsor forum on transgender issues tonight

by Liz Highleyman

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) and the Bay Area Transgender Law Association (BATLAW) will sponsor a joint forum in conjunction with the Lesbian and Gay Law Students (LeGaLS) of Golden Gate University tonight (Thursday, June 11).

The forum will focus on transgender issues, with an emphasis on sociocultural and legal issues. The discussion will also explore how the concerns of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people differ and overlap. BALIF is currently discussing expanding its mission to explicitly include issues of concern to the transgender community.

Panelists will include BATLAW Co-Chair and BALIF member (and *Bay Area Reporter* contributing writer) Vicky Kolakowski, FTM International President Jamison Green, BALIF member and Lyric Executive Director Brian Cheu, and LeGaLS Secretary Micheal McLoughlin.

The forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Golden Gate University, located at 536 Mission Street, in the second floor auditorium. For

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BAY AREA REPORTER

SAP to honor HIV prevention advocates at twilight reception

by Cynthia Laird

Three local activists will be recognized at Stop AIDS Project's third annual "San Francisco HIV Prevention Awards" reception this Monday, June 15 at a twilight cabaret event.

Franc D'Ambrosio, who plays the title role in the local production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, will be the master of ceremonies for the evening's festivities at Harry Denton's Starlight Room atop of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. Stephan Edwards, the reigning Mr. San Francisco Leather, will present awards to Ellen Goldstein, co-chair of the HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC); Buzz Bense, owner of Eros; and Rafael Diaz, a principal investigator at the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS).

In addition to D'Ambrosio, entertainment will include performances by the Lollipop Guild of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and Tony Award-nominated cabaret performer Sharon McNight.

About the awardees

Goldstein, who will receive the Chuck Frutchey Board of Directors Award, is the manager of community programs at CAPS, where she coordinates much of the collaboration between CAPS, funders, and community-based

organizations to help ensure that HIV prevention efforts are contributing to and benefiting from scientific research. In addition to co-chairing the HPPC, where she works to facilitate the challenging process of creating a bridge between practice and research, helping to ensure that the community's voice is heard, while balancing epidemiology data. Goldstein also co-chaired the prevention subcommittee for Mayor Willie Brown's HIV/AIDS Summit in January.

"Ellen has made a big impact upon important planning and policy discussions regarding HIV prevention. Her ability to get people from different disciplines thinking together is incredible," said Steve Lew, director of research and technical assistance at the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

The Sam B. Puckett Memorial HIV Prevention Award will go to Bense, a feisty longtime HIV survivor. Together with his life partner Bob West, Bense is the owner of Eros, the center for safe sex. Since 1983, he has been a community leader in helping gay and bisexual men celebrate their sexuality, while reducing risk. He has designed numerous safe-sex materials and videos in collaboration with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), Mayer Laboratories, the Condom Research Center, and the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sexuality. Bense served for three years as a

member of the Department of Public Health's AIDS Prevention Advisory Committee, and co-founded the Coalition for Healthy Sex in 1990 after his earlier club at 890 Folsom Street was raided by police.

"Buzz exemplifies how the private sector can play an important role in HIV prevention, by balancing profit, individual freedom, and community health," said Dan Wohlfeiler, SAP education director. "He has demonstrated that AIDS prevention is not the sole province of AIDS prevention agencies, but is the task of all of us."

Diaz will also receive a Sam B. Puckett award. In his work at CAPS, Diaz has made a significant impact on the prevention efforts targeted at gay and bisexual men of color. He is one of the few researchers who has chosen to conduct studies and intervention development among men of color, as well as participate in the community's efforts to implement these programs. In addition to serving on the advisory board of Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, Diaz has been instrumental in fostering the development and implementation of two community-based HIV prevention programs targeting Latino gay and bisexual men. He is also a founding member of El Ambiente, a program that attracts Latino men, who want to jointly explore issues of gay identity and HIV prevention.

"Rafael represents the spirit of

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Weary AIDS riders home

Event raised \$9.5 mil for SFAF; LA Center

by Cynthia Laird

All 2,600 riders in the 1998 Tanqueray California AIDS Ride – and some 650 volunteers – returned to their homes following the conclusion of the event last Saturday, June 6. The 560-mile trip finished in Los Angeles, raising an estimated \$9.5 million for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

"It went beautifully," said Derek Gordon, SFAF communications director. "There were more riders than we expected and more volunteers than we expected. The camaraderie and community in camp was just incredibly beautiful."

A couple of high points occurred during the excursion that started at Fort Mason in San Francisco on Sunday, May 31, with participants putting in an average of 85 miles each day – much of it grueling – for seven days. "Some days we rode 100 miles, others were shorter," said Gordon.

The mass of riders was slowed somewhat by rain in San Luis Obispo County, but the local population more than compensated for the weather. In Guadalupe, a small town south of San Luis Obispo, the local Girl Scout troop and school children made red paper flowers and ribbons and handed them to the riders as they passed, Gordon said. And in Lompoc, still further south, the mayor reportedly had to threaten to quit her job in order for riders and volunteers to set up camp in one of that city's parks last Thursday night.

"But she prevailed," Gordon told the *Bay Area Reporter* adding the mayor showed up with packets of flower seeds for the participants.

Officials reported no major injuries or other problems. Gordon did say that the food was not the best tasting. "It was edible and it was nutritious," he laughed. ▼

SAP reception

◀ previous page

this award," said SAP's Hector Carrillo, deputy education director. "He has demonstrated exceptional leadership during the current decade in pioneering the creation of AIDS prevention programs for Latino gay and bisexual men, a population in great need of prevention efforts."

Timothy Leifield, SAP executive director, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the awardees were chosen from 150 nominating forms that were sent to various community organizations. Interestingly, the AIDS activist who spearheaded the campaign to get a condom distribution program in city bars and businesses, Michael Petrelis, was not among those nominated, Leifield said. Since SAP began the Condoms Now! program last fall, it has been hugely successful, with over 500,000 rubbers distributed. ▼

Tickets for the cabaret reception that will take place starting at 6:30 p.m., are \$50 or \$100 per person. To attend, call (415) 575-0150, ext. 260. Checks can be mailed directly to SAP at 2128-15th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. The Sir Francis Drake Hotel is located at 450 Powell Street.



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San Jose gears up for RuPaul

24th Pride celebration Sun.

by Cynthia Laird

Drag superstar RuPaul will headline the 24th annual San Jose Gay Pride celebration, "Free To Be..." this Sunday, June 14. The afternoon festival at Discovery Meadow caps off a day of activities that will begin with a short parade down San Jose's Market Street.

Other musical entertainers performing on the main stage include the Kuntury K's, Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Folklorico Pro-Latino San Jose, Havana Boyz, Kathy Sledge (the voice of Sister Sledge), Pansy Division, the Diamond John Review featuring Lucy Manhattan and the San Jose Divas, lesbian comedians Cindi Ellen Hagley and Sabrina Matthews, and singer Evelyn Champagne King. They are all expected to generate enthusiasm among the crowd before RuPaul takes the stage.

Pride organizers expect a record turnout, thanks in part to this year's entertainment lineup. They hope RuPaul's appearance will lead to increased funds raised for the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center and ARIS (AIDS Resource Information and Services), a South Bay AIDS organization, plus the gay pride event itself. Organizers ask attendees to voluntarily contribute \$1 to \$5 at the festival entrances on West San Carlos Street.

This year's event is also expected to draw a crowd at Metropolitan Community Church-San Jose, where MCC founder Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry will lead a special celebration Sunday night at 7 p.m. Entitled "Jesus Said: 'Come Out!'" the event will honor San Jose's annual Gay Pride weekend and will feature Perry's energetic and inspiring preaching as well as a selection of dynamic music.

Earlier in the day, Perry will be with the MCC-SJ contingent in the parade and on Saturday, June 13, he will be the main speaker at the fifth annual "Celebration of Spirit" at First Congregational Church at Leigh and Hamilton streets in San Jose. That event is being organized by the gay ministry of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches.

Mark Gillard, president of San Jose Gay Pride, said the excitement is mounting in anticipation of this Sunday's event; the office has gotten calls from all over the state from people interested in attending. "We're extremely excited to have such a line up of entertainment and hope people from all over the Bay Area come and see RuPaul and enjoy the day in San Jose," Gillard told the B.A.R.

San Jose held its first pride parade in 1991, although the festival has been held much longer. Unlike the mammoth march that will hit San Francisco on June 28, "it's a really short parade," Gillard laughed, so he cautioned people to arrive promptly for the 10 a.m. parade, which he expects to be finished by 11. The parade starts at Market and St. John, and ends at San Carlos, where the festival will start at 11 a.m.

Ron Gonzales, a former Santa Clara County supervisor who will be in a runoff election this fall for

mayor of San Jose, and State Assemblymember Mike Honda (D-San Jose) are among the local officials expected in the parade. Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, the openly gay county health officer, and lesbian Gabrielle Antolovich, who works for the Department of Public Health as a tobacco health educator, are parade grand marshals.

Two special awards will be handed out by parade judges. The Mark Porsche Memorial Stonewall Award will be for the best overall representation of the "free to be..." theme. Additionally, the Don Queen Award will be presented to the parade entry that best exemplifies community awareness.

Gillard said the festival organizers tripled the number of booths over last year, so commercial and nonprofit organizations will be represented throughout the mead-



RuPaul

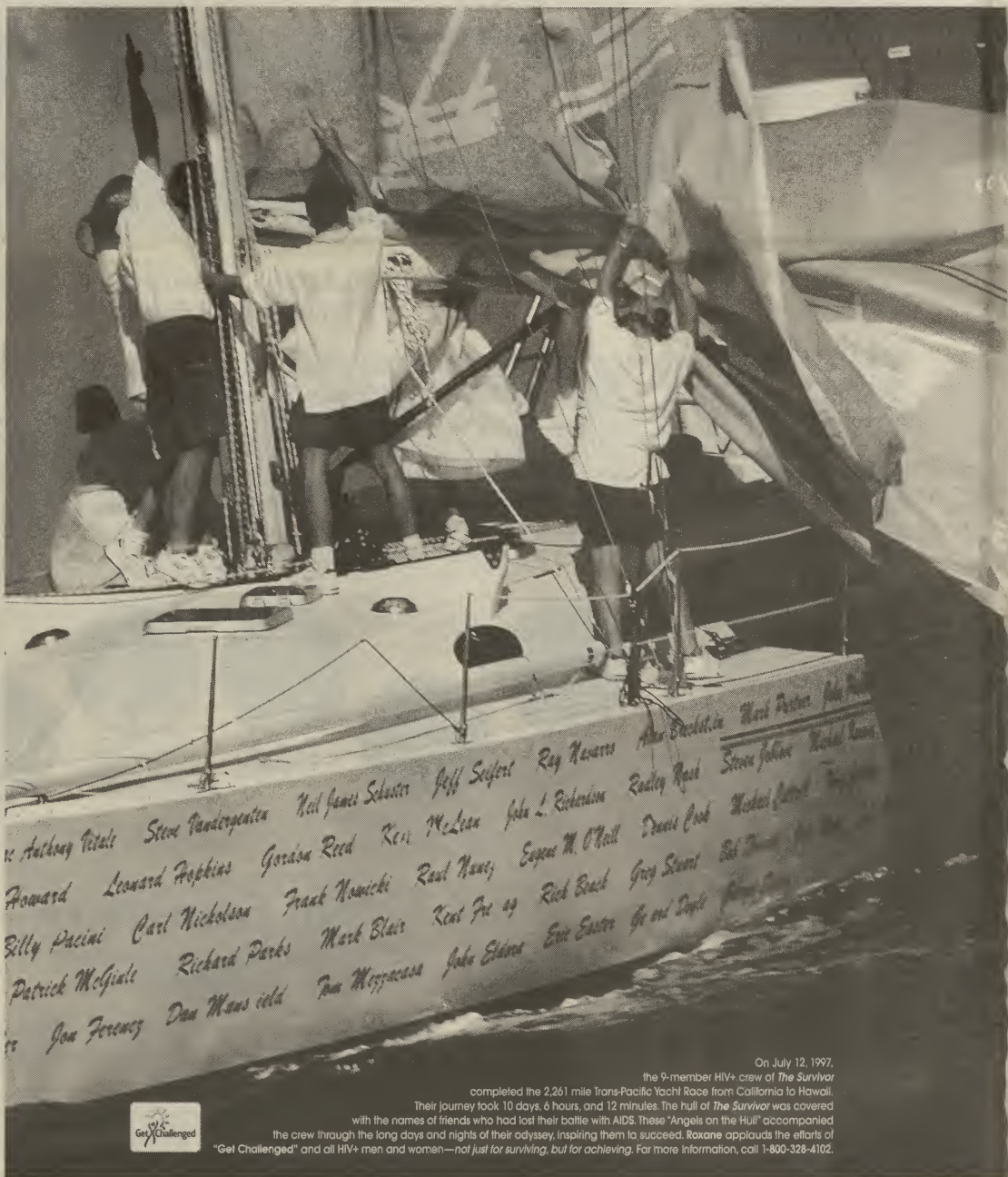
ow, and there will be an array of food and beverages for sale. ▼

It is recommended that people take public transit to the San Jose Pride celebration. The festival is near the Technology Light Rail Station or people can take CalTrain. For schedule information call (408) 321-2300 for bus and light rail; (800) 660-4287 for CalTrain. MCC-SJ is located at 65 South Seventh Street; for info, call (408) 279-2711.

Nice dinghy, sailor



A couple from the Santa Cruz Squares showed off their footwork - and more - during the Santa Cruz Gay Pride parade down Pacific Avenue last Sunday, June 7. Several thousand queers lined the streets and partied at the festival in San Lorenzo.



On July 12, 1997, the 9-member HIV+ crew of *The Survivor* completed the 2,261 mile Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from California to Hawaii. Their journey took 10 days, 6 hours, and 12 minutes. The hull of *The Survivor* was covered with the names of friends who had lost their battle with AIDS. These "Angels on the Hull" accompanied the crew through the long days and nights of their odyssey, inspiring them to succeed. Roxane applauds the efforts of "Get Challenged" and all HIV+ men and women—not just for surviving, but for achieving. For more information, call 1-800-328-4102.

Sonoma County gays parade and celebrate Pride Day

'A comfortable crowd' – and even the sun came out!

by Lois Pearlman

Undaunted by overcast skies and predictions of rain, an estimated crowd of 2,000 paraded and partied last Sunday at Sonoma County's annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Celebration.

Kicking off at noon with a parade through downtown Santa Rosa, the event continued throughout the afternoon at Santa Rosa Junior College, featuring music, food, booths, and a wedding ceremony.

Grand Marshals Jodi Selene and Stewart Scofield led the parade of several dozen contingents – including everything from the county's oldest gay bar, the Santa Rosa Inn, to the First Congregational Church and Congregation

Shomrei Torah, a church and synagogue that share a common building.

Selene is a dance instructor and theatrical producer who runs Harmony Productions, a company that produces the Sonoma County Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. She also produced the entertainment portion of the Pride Day celebration, and worked as the stage manager.

Scofield, the volunteer coordinator for Food for Thought, the Sonoma County AIDS food bank, is a columnist for the local gay newspaper and a community activist. In the 1970's he was a founder of *RFD*, a magazine for rural gay men.

The parade crowd was smaller than usual, but attendance was up at the celebration as the day turned warmer, if not sunnier.

Those who braved the unseasonably cloudy weather appeared to be enjoying the festivities, milling around the central plaza to chat and eat, or sitting under the oaks to watch the show.

Performers included Bay Area singer/songwriter blackberri, percussion ensemble Sistah Boom, and comedian Danny Williams. They were joined by local singer/songwriters Mark Weigle, Megan McElroy and Janelle Burdel, a capella group Copper Women, and Steven Cozza, a Petaluma teenager who is working to lift the Boy Scouts' gay ban.

The wedding and recommitment ceremony included five lesbian couples, some of whom had registered ahead for the event, and some who decided to tie the knot at the last moment. Ronna Rosenau and Flora Grumich, one

of the couples who planned ahead, brought along a handful of friends as witnesses.

Reverend John Torres of the Guerneville Metropolitan Community Church, along with Frances Fuchs and Michelle Porter, officiated at the wedding, employing an original ceremony that incorporated rituals and symbols from a variety of traditions.

Windsor resident Dennis O'Shea, his long gray hair captured in a head band, said it was the first time in several years that he had attended the event, now in its eleventh year. O'Shea brought along a friend from Oakland, who joined him in carrying the huge Food For Thought rainbow flag.

"It was nice to bump into a bunch of people I haven't seen in

a while," he said of the celebration that followed the parade. "It was a comfortable sized crowd."

Jeanne Dardini, the president of the pride committee, agreed with O'Shea that the event was a success for the community.

"It was a place where you could relax and be who you wanted to be," she said. "Being who we are and doing what we do [the celebration] is important to our community and to the larger community," she continued.

According to Dardini, the pride committee is planning to take a step further into the big time next year by entering a contingent in the annual Santa Rosa Rose Parade, held in mid-May.

"I think the lesbian and gay community needs a presence in the mainstream community," she said. ▼

Sisters to dole out Pink receipts to queer causes

by Mark Mardon

Once again at Pink Saturday, the annual impromptu Castro neighborhood street party the night of San Francisco's Dyke March and eve of its Pride parade, pink-shirted volunteers with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., will collect charitable donations at strategically placed police barricades.

As is their habit, the nuns will be turning over the money, an anticipated \$17,000, to queer nonprofits.

"It is with Pride (pun intended) that we partner with the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Celebration

Committee to put on this year's Pink Saturday and work to maximize the amount of money returned to the community in the form of grants to eligible nonprofits," said Sisters spokesperson Sr. Phyllis Stein.

Note to the nonprofits: the Sisters give out grants, in amounts of up to \$500, to groups needing to cover startup costs, capital expenditures not covered by normal operating budgets, program incentives, direct service costs, and scholarships. The deadline for applications is Monday, June 30.

For more information, contact the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., at 584 Castro Street, #392, San Francisco, CA 94114, or phone them at (415) 255-7039. ▼

Public invited to Twin Peaks pink triangle painting party Sunday

by Mark Mardon

Twice as large as ever before, broadcasting a reminder of the Nazis' Holocaust-era persecution of homosexuals to everyone who sees it, a giant pink triangle will adorn the northeastern side of Twin Peaks during Pride weekend, visible along the length of Market Street. Volunteers are needed to help make it happen.

This year, thanks to a grant from the Promotion Fund of Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, Friends of the Pink Triangle (FPT) will be able to enlarge the emblem to twice its size from last years.

"The pink triangle was once used by the Nazis in concentration camps to identify and shame gay men and lesbian prisoners," said an FPT spokesperson. "The symbol has since been embraced by the gay community as a symbol of Pride."

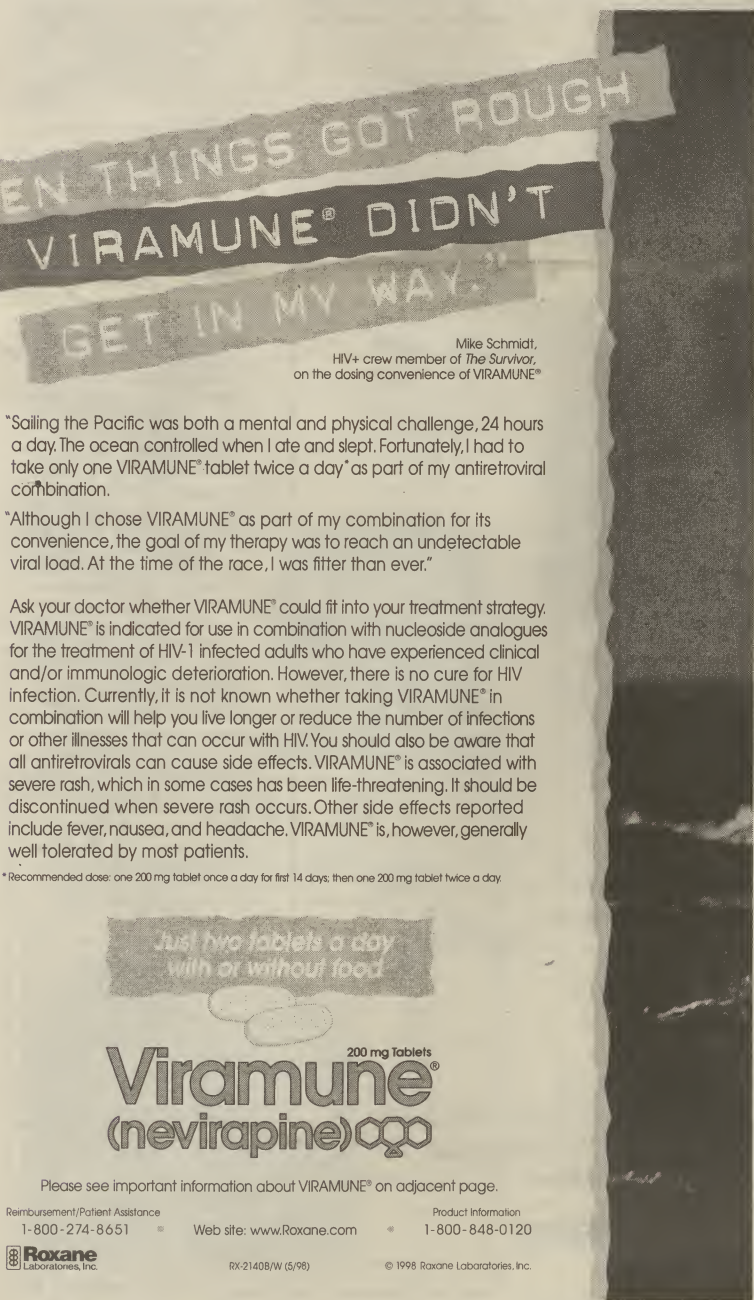
FPT organizers Michael Brown, Patrick Carney, and Thomas

Tremblay, who call themselves "a group of friends who wish to bring the message of the pink triangle to the world," invite all those interested in this symbolic reminder of injustice against homosexuals to participate in a triangle "painting party" on Sunday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Those willing to flex their muscles for a few hours should meet at Corona Heights Park, which can be reached from either Flint Street (at the top of 16th Street), or from States Street. Parking is available in a small lot accessible from a driveway across the street from 173 States Street.

All necessary tools for the task will be provided by FPT, including canvas, bright pink paint, rollers, pans, and clean-up materials. Volunteers should bring liquids and lunches. ▼

For more information, contact Patrick Carney at (415) 929-0250, or Thomas Tremblay at (415) 334-1540.



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Ask your doctor whether VIRAMUNE® could fit into your treatment strategy. VIRAMUNE® is indicated for use in combination with nucleoside analogues for the treatment of HIV-1 infected adults who have experienced clinical and/or immunologic deterioration. However, there is no cure for HIV infection. Currently, it is not known whether taking VIRAMUNE® in combination will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. You should also be aware that all antiretrovirals can cause side effects. VIRAMUNE® is associated with severe rash, which in some cases has been life-threatening. It should be discontinued when severe rash occurs. Other side effects reported include fever, nausea, and headache. VIRAMUNE® is, however, generally well tolerated by most patients.


* Recommended dose: one 200 mg tablet once a day for first 14 days; then one 200 mg tablet twice a day.

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with or without food

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Viramune
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Please see important information about VIRAMUNE® on adjacent page.

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YANKEE CLIPPER TRAVEL

Cayman Islands – not so grand

by M.R. Richards, B.A.R.
capitol correspondent

One can only wonder "What could they possibly be thinking?" when it was reported that the Cayman Island Board of Tourism had scheduled meetings with travel agents in San Francisco on Wednesday, June 10 in an attempt to promote tourism to their country. Especially since Cayman tourism officials confirmed six months ago that permission to make a port of call on Grand Cayman was denied for an Atlantis cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines carrying gay and lesbian passengers. A letter written by Cayman Minister of Tourism Thomas Jefferson stated, "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cay-



Cayman chaos: Author/activist Michael Gorman confronts Cayman Islands tourism rep at the capital's Sterling Hotel June 9.

man Islands."

The Cayman Board of Tourism is in America to promote tourist travel to those islands, primarily known for upscale vaca-

tions and offshore banking.

The scheduled meetings in San Francisco were canceled last Friday, the day after the *Bay Area Reporter* revealed that they were in the offing. However, the Caymans did not cancel a breakfast meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at the trendy Sterling Hotel in midtown Sacramento, perhaps believing nobody in the state capital would notice.

They were wrong.

The West Ballroom tables were set for 100 breakfasts, a calypso band was on hand, and a large projection screen dominated the room. Protesters from the Lambda Community Center arrived early, armed with flyers to hand out to attendees. About 25 people arrived, most received the flyers handed out by Lambda Board President Bates Botting. The flyers urged agents to vacation at alternate islands and destinations, and cited the discrimination to gays and lesbians by the Cayman Island officials.

As the cable TV show *Being Gay Today* filmed an interview, Botting said, "These people are willing to openly discriminate against a group of American citizens and then turn around and come here urging other Americans, who meet their standards, to go there and spend their money. Remember, these are the people who launder dirty money. Drug money, mob money, prostitution money, money embezzled from the elderly and the poor all gets laundered in the Caymans with no moral qualms – but somehow their family values are compromised over gay people holding hands while walking down the street in their cities."

Jerry Sloan, founder of the Lambda Community Center and of Project Tocsin, had brought his portable microphone and a rainbow flag, and was resplendent in a rainbow jacket. When someone commented that the size of the demonstration was small, there was general laughter as Sloan shot back, "We just found out this meeting was being held here so we didn't have a lot of time to get organized, but we've got some people that will keep them busy on the phones."

"Besides, there's hardly anybody in there anyway and don't you know, gay people don't do breakfast, darlin' – we brunch!"

Public hate crime

An orderly pacing of the sidewalk continued until an African-American woman, identified by a next page ►

Viramune[®]
(nevirapine)

Simple maintenance dose:
one 200 mg tablet twice daily

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BRIEF SUMMARY

WARNING:

VIRAMUNE[®] (NEVIRAPINE) IS INDICATED FOR USE IN COMBINATION WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV-1 INFECTED ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CLINICAL AND/OR IMMUNOLOGIC DETERIORATION. THIS INDICATION IS BASED ON ANALYSES OF CHANGES IN SURVIVORSHIP ENDPOINTS IN STUDIES OF UP TO 4 WEEKS DURATION. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO RESULTS FROM CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIALS EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF VIRAMUNE[®] WITH NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ON THE CLINICAL PROGRESSION OF HIV-1 INFECTION, SUCH AS THE INCIDENCE OF OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS OR SURVIVAL.

THE DURATION OF BENEFIT FROM ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY MAY BE LIMITED. ALTERATION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE[®].

RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY WHEN VIRAMUNE[®] IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE[®] SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENT.

VIRAMUNE[®] HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE RASH, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN LIFE-THREATENING. WHEN SEVERE RASH OCCURS, VIRAMUNE[®] MUST BE DISCONTINUED.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE[®] IS CONTRAINDICATED IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT HYPERSENSITIVITY TO ANY OF THE COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN THE TABLET.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE[®]. Including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), VIRAMUNE[®] must be discontinued in patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise (see PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients, ADVERSE REACTIONS).

VIRAMUNE[®] therapy must be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during this lead-in period until the rash has resolved (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE[®] as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While Viramune is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE[®] should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been reported with VIRAMUNE[®], some in the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis. VIRAMUNE[®] administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE[®] treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on readministration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE[®], dose adjustments may be necessary.

Rifampin/Ribidim: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and rifampin or ribidim are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE[®].

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE[®].

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE[®] is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illness associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE[®] has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE[®].

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE[®] are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE[®] therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE[®] is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE[®] occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in dosing period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE[®] every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

VIRAMUNE[®] may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE[®].

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames; Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO/HGPRT), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicology studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses producing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE[®] should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1 infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 100 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE[®] at a median of 5.8 hours before delivery, indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risk of postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE[®].

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of VIRAMUNE[®] in pediatric patients have not been established. VIRAMUNE[®] has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 0.9 years (range: 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE[®]. In an ongoing, controlled trial of VIRAMUNE[®] combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 288 patients treated with VIRAMUNE[®] experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Because there are no data on multi-dose pharmacokinetics in children, no recommendation on dosing can be made. Based on single-dose pharmacokinetics in 9 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (age 9 mos. to 14 years) who were administered nevirapine in a suspension formulation, it appears that oral clearance is approximately 2-fold greater in children when compared to adults.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE[®] therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE[®] is rash, with VIRAMUNE[®]-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase III/IV controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE[®] experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of either ZDV+ddi or ZDV alone (Table 1). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE[®]-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups. Rash events are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment; 25% of the patients with severe rashes required hospitalization; and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE[®] due to rash.

Table 1: Percentage of patients with rashes in controlled trials^a

	ACTG 241 ^b		BI 1037		BI 1011		COMBINED DATA	
	NVP+ZDV+ddi	ZDV+ddi	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP	CONTROL
n	197	201	30	30	25	24	252	255
Rash events of all Grades and all causality	39.6%	23.9%	26.7%	6.7%	32.0%	4.2%	37.3%	20.0%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events, all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%	8.0%	0%	7.6%	1.2%

^a At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily.

^b Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events; except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported.

Table 2 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE[®] in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011.

Table 2: Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

	ACTG 241		Trial BI 1037 and BI 1011	
	Grade 3/4 events		All severities	
	NVP+ZDV+ddi	ZDV+ddi	NVP+ZDV	ZDV alone
Number of patients	197	201	55	30
Overall incidence of related adverse events	31%	23%	42%	33%
Rash	8	2	20	3
Fever	3	3	11	3
Nausea	5	4	9	3
Headache	3	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Ulcerative stomatitis	0	0	4	0
Peripheral Neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Parosmia	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Laboratory Abnormalities: Table 3 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

Table 3: Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

	Data combined for controlled trials ACTG 241, BI 1037 & BI 1011	
	VIRAMUNE [®] n=252	Control n=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<80 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood chemistry		
Increased ALT (>250 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased AST (>250 U/L)	2.0	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE[®] recipients than in controls. Because hepatitis has occasionally been reported in VIRAMUNE[®]-treated patients, monitoring of liver function tests should be considered.

OVERDOSAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE[®] overdosage. No acute toxicities or sequelae were reported for one patient who ingested 800 mg of VIRAMUNE[®] for one day.

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SB 1506 is dead

Kopp helps kill gay Family Leave bill

by M.R. Richards, B.A.R.
Capitol Correspondent

Minutes after his Family Leave Act was defeated by 17-16 vote on the Senate Floor on Thursday, May 28, Democratic State Senator Tom Hayden of Los Angeles sat down to write a note to his legislative aide, Joe Hall-Davis. Hall-Davis is a gay man who has worked tenaciously to get SB 1506 passed.

In part, Hayden's note read, "Sorry Joe, not just for you - but for us all."

SB1506 would have amended Government Code Section 12945.2, affecting family and medical leave for employees. The bill would have allowed people with unmarried partners or siblings to take unpaid medical leave under California's Family Care and Medical Leave Act. Hall-Davis knows how valuable such a compassionate law would be: his life partner Shannon Bell-Davis, an elected, well-respected school board trustee for many years, died in early April after a long illness, of complications due to lymphoma.

Although Hayden gave Joe as much leave as he needed because

of his accumulated leave time through working 50 plus hours a week, Hall-Davis returned to his legislative office to continue his work on the bill. "I was lucky to be working for a progressive, compassionate individual," Hall-Davis said. "He took time from his busy schedule and came to the house and the hospital to visit with me and with Shannon on several occasions. I have so much respect for him and have the greatest admiration and confidence in his integrity about this bill."

Hall-Davis added that people issues are most important to Hayden and he was so touched by the needs and the stories of so many people throughout the state. "The painful testimony of people with life partners and family members who desperately need the protections of SB 1506 was heart rending to anyone who would just listen," Hall-Davis said.

Among those not listening, and voting "no," was San Francisco's Quentin Kopp, an Independent. Republican Senator Tim Leslie of Tahoe City, despite his own battle with bone cancer, could not break ranks with the other GOPs voting no. Those names - Rob Hurt; Maurice Johannessen; Dick Mon-

teith; Richard Mountjoy; Ruben Ayala; James Brulte; Jim Costa; Raymond Haynes; David Kelley; Pete Knight; Ken Maddy; Bruce McPherson; Richard Rainey, and Kathy Wright - include some of Sacramento's most vociferous anti-gay voices. Democrats who did not vote were Senators LeRoy Greene of Carmichael, who is terming out; Steve Peace of El Cajon; and Adam Schiff of Burbank.

Ellen McCormick, the former lobbyist for LIFE lobby, was one of those testifying for the bill in committee. "It was humiliating," she told the B.A.R.. "There I was telling them, showing them, that I have a life-threatening illness - that I need my partner to be with me, to take care of me. I was so vulnerable during that testimony before the committee and two of those Senators weren't even listening - they were joking and laughing among themselves."

"Their minds were made up. They were absolutely uncaring."

Hall-Davis remains hopeful. "The bill will come back, it has to come back - I'm sure Tom won't give this up easily but we're going to need a great deal of public assistance and support when it does," he said. ▼

Cayman Islands

◀ previous page

bystander as Velma Stokely, a member of the N.A.A.C.P. Executive Board, walked by refusing to look at demonstrators or to take a flyer. As she sped inside, poet and author Michael Gorman responded by grabbing some flyers he had written and announcing, "I'm going inside." Gorman hit the door with reporters and photographers right behind him.

As Gorman passed out flyers speaking about the discrimination, saying it would not be ac-

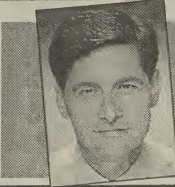
ceptable if this were about African-Americans, Jews, Asians, or other groups, why should it be acceptable about gays and lesbians, a Cayman employee kept trying to stop him or silence him. Gorman evaded her and she turned to grab this reporter's camera. A quick reminder about the meaning of freedom of the press in America, the First Amendment, and the definition of assault, if laying her hands on the reporter or the camera caused her to back away, although she continued to complain loudly.

"We paid for this room, this is private property," she said.

"This is a public hate crime," someone shouted, and Gorman turned to join other demonstrators on the street. The point had been made.

A call was made to the Sterling Hotel at 10 a.m. by Cliff Anchor from Monte Rio, who reported that a thoroughly frazzled desk clerk reassured him the Cayman Islands people had already packed up and left. ▼

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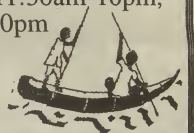
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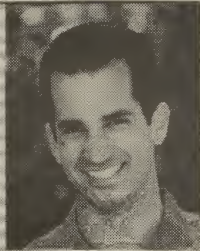
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CCP board to hold annual meeting, discuss SF gay center

by Cynthia Laird

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project (CCP) Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting and elect new officers this Wednesday, June 17 at the Women's Building. The board is expected to make an announcement at the meeting on its intentions to keep the Fallon Building site at Market and Octavia streets.

The meeting is open to the public, and people are invited to come early to enjoy some refreshments before the meeting begins.

While the CCP board has been working under the assumption that the center will incorporate the Fallon Building, there has not been a formal decision made since the controversy over the future of the 104-year-old Queen Anne Victorian erupted last year.

Most recently, the city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted unanimously on June 3 to recommend landmark status for the Fallon Building. The CCP's architects and engineers have been working with the landmarks board on that matter. The San Francisco Planning Department, Board of Supervisors, and Mayor Willie Brown now must each review the landmark request and sign off accordingly. Gary Goad, of Friends of 1800 Market Street, said that all parties are expected to



The Fallon Building

support landmarking the Fallon Building.

Friends of 1800 Market will hold a news conference today (Thursday, June 11) at the site to call for unity for the project; the group held an April fundraiser that raised \$5,000 to go toward work on the Fallon Building.

CCP president Brenda Barnette said the annual meeting, required under the CCP's bylaws, will feature a progress report on the project.

"In the last year, the board has taken major strides toward the

success of the community center project," Barnette said. "We have raised over \$2.4 million toward construction, forged a partnership with preservationists to incorporate the Victorian into the development affordably, and created a vision for the activities to be housed in the center."

It has also been a year of major changes on the center's board; Mark Leno, who co-chaired the capital campaign, resigned when he was appointed supervisor by the mayor and Scott Shafer, another driving force behind the center, stepped down earlier this year when he took a job at KQED-FM radio station. Several new members have come on board since the beginning of the year as well, increasing the group's diversity as it strives to be inclusive of the queer community here.

"The annual meeting is a time to reflect on those accomplishments, and the tasks to be accomplished in this next, most critical year," Barnette added. ▼

The Women's Building is located at 3543 - 18th Street between Valencia and Guerrero. Refreshments will be served starting at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting will start at 7. For more information, call the CCP at (415) 241-1526. The Friends of 1800 event is at 10 a.m. today at the Fallon Building.

Lambda rises ... again

by M.R. Richards, B.A.R.
capitol correspondent

Two months ago Sacramento's Lambda Community Center was beset by debt, harried by lawsuits, was almost declared bankrupt by a largely absentee board of directors and was facing a crisis of confidence in the community.

Two women, Donna Matthews and Kimberly Weer, relative newcomers to the activist community, were Lambda volunteers. While Weer worked on this year's Lambda Fair Pride Celebration, Matthews, formerly a resident of San Francisco, set about learning as much as she could about the history of the center. Both attended meetings and worked tirelessly to find solutions to some of the center's problems. They contacted former board members and the center's founder, the Reverend Jerry Sloan. They spoke also with former Board Member and Treasurer, Bates Botting. Asking questions, probing, badgering, they finally got enough cooperation from the "old board" to pull together a meeting to see what could be done to either save the center or at least allow it to close with some integrity.

Botting, a retired military logistician, was elected board president; Jerry Sloan, secretary; Michael Johnston, CFO of Sidie Enterprises, treasurer; Terrie Sidie, owner of the popular club Faces

and leader in the court system is also on the board as are Matthews, Weer, Marghe Covino, formerly a president of the "old board," and Jeff Flynn, the one remaining member of the recent board.

The first meeting of the new board was on May 3. Since that time, Botting has negotiated with banks, the IRS and debtors, settled lawsuits, and reduced the outstanding debt to approximately \$22,000. Johnston has instituted a budget and a payment plan that will find the center debt-free in two years, if a minimum income of \$2,800 a month can be maintained. Covino, Sloan, and Botting worked on forming the 2800 Club, looking for 280 donors who are willing to support the center with \$10 a month donations. A low-key publicity campaign was launched and support is beginning to develop.

According to Sloan, in the last month and a half there were over 1,000 telephone calls and 800 drop-ins to the center. "People call in for all sorts of reasons," Sloan said. "They may want referrals or want to know where to file a complaint or find a bar or a bookshop - sometimes they just want to visit - sometimes they have nowhere else to turn." Sloan works at the center as a volunteer, keeping the center open and answering telephone calls and greeting visitors on Mondays. "There is no doubt in my mind that there is a need for this center in this community," he said.

Botting is seeking to restore the center to its former stature

and credibility by demonstrating fiscal integrity, restoring programs, and restructuring the center's fiscal base. "We simply should not be grant dependent; we have to have several streams of income that can ebb and flow without doing damage to the central core programs and mission," he said. "Competent administration will go a long way in keeping us on track. This kind of thing shouldn't happen - but often does when there's nobody watching the store or they just don't know what they're looking at. We're no different than other organizations which have run into problems. Just today there's a story in the paper [Sacramento Bee, June 9] about the YWCA: the litanies are the same, big bank loan, dwindling donations, board controversies and so on - they're in real trouble and I wish them well."

"If it can happen to the 'Y' it can happen to any organization," said Botting.

As the new "old board" goes about the hard work of restoring a community asset, they will take the time Saturday to celebrate and cheer the faithful fair committee, which has worked diligently to put on the annual event despite major difficulties.

The Lambda Fair Community Pride Celebration will take place in Sacramento this Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will be held for the first time at Sacramento's Southside Park at 7th and T streets. ▼

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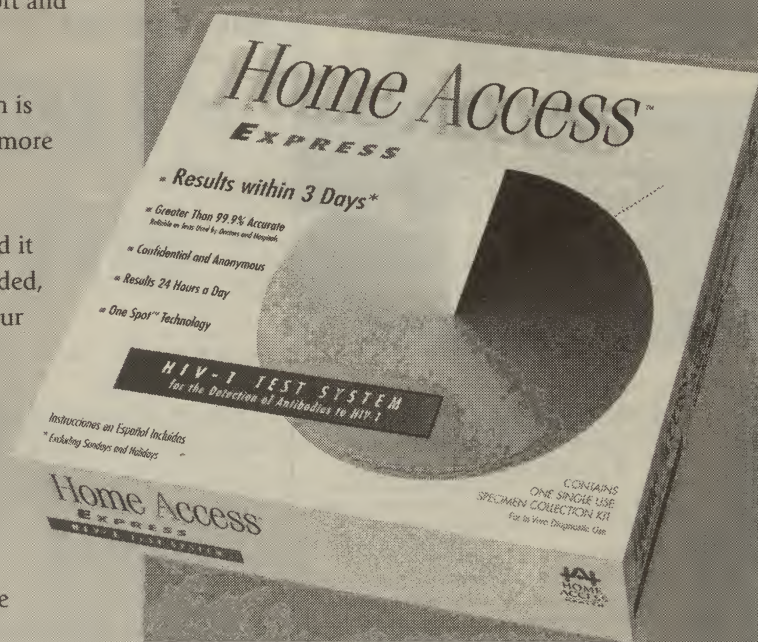
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Pride in the park



Congregation Sha'ar Zahav had its own special Cafe Ga'ay (which in Hebrew means "pride") in Golden Gate Park June 7 as part of the Israel in the Park festivities. The event helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern-day state of Israel. The trio in the above photo were participating in a time-honored cafe tradition: the obligatory poetry reading.

Sunshine rests on Willie

Supes give final OK to historic legislation

by Cynthia Laird

The nonprofit accountability or "sunshine" ordinance sailed to final approval Monday, June 8 when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 1 to vote to send the historic legislation on to Mayor Willie Brown. The mayor is not expected to oppose the legislation, aides have told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Activists are pleased the ordinance was approved, and the fate of a similar ballot initiative that ACT UP/Golden Gate is working to put before voters in November is uncertain. "It's in the works," ACT UP/Golden Gate member Jeff Getty told the B.A.R. If the mayor signs the legislation, the group is likely to reconsider the initiative.

Activists are confident they could get the signatures needed to force the issue to a vote by city residents.

On June 1, the board voted 10 to 1 to approve an amended version of the ordinance, requiring nonprofits that receive at least \$250,000 in city-administered funds to open up board meetings and disclose some financial information. Hundreds of agencies that provide an array of services to city residents would be affected. Supervisor Jose Medina was the lone dissenting vote both times; Supervisor Sue Bierman was absent for the second vote, which is required for ordinances under board rules.

The final passage of the ordinance was seen as a big win for Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who championed the legislation, saying

nonprofits that receive "even a buck" of public funds should be accountable. The ordinance has been winding its way through the government process and was forced on a slow track before its final hearing before the board's Finance Committee in late May. Prompted by activists' calls for greater public scrutiny of nonprofits that administer millions of dollars in public funds annually, Ammiano convened a 20-member Task Force on Nonprofit Accountability. That group met many times, and Ammiano has been credited with creating a task force that included both activists and people from the nonprofit sector. Project Open Hand Executive Director Tom Nolan chaired the task force and was praised for bringing consensus to the process. ▼

HIV fraud case

◀ page 5

January 1996 when Robinson, while cleaning out a closet in the couple's home, found a bag containing three large bottles of Azidothymidine (AZT), a drug commonly used for treatment of HIV and AIDS. When Robinson finally confronted Louie about the AZT, some six weeks later, Louie disclosed "for the first time," according to Robinson, that he had tested positive for HIV more than a decade earlier.

"I felt my life had been put in jeopardy," Robinson told the court. "All the trust I had put in him went out the window."

Even after receiving negative results from two HIV tests in subsequent months, said Robinson, "I was haunted by fears of false negatives." He said also that "my worst fear was having to call my parents and tell them I had HIV." A friend gave him unprescribed Prozac to help him cope with his anxiety.

Up to that time Robinson discovered the AZT, the couple had shared a bed. But soon Robinson moved into the den, and the two stopped speaking or having sex. Nonetheless, Robinson felt the two were still married, and declined Louie's offer of \$5,000 and a moving van to move out of the house.

On the witness stand, Robinson began sobbing as he told of coming home one night to find Louie and a stranger lying naked together on the floor of his room,

both "smelling of alcohol."

"I don't know what I did to make you disrespect me," he cried, looking directly at Louie across the courtroom.

Subsequently, Robinson learned that Louie, during the marriage, had taken out a membership in Blow Buddies, and frequently had sex with other men, he said.

Louie insisted he always revealed his HIV status to his sex partners, unless they engaged only in mutual masturbation.

McCoy told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday he was confident he could demonstrate to the court that Louie had, in fact, often had unsafe sex with men without revealing that he was HIV-positive.

In the courtroom, McCoy systematically questioned Louie about his relationship with LeRoy Mosley, Louie's previous husband, asking him to compare it to his relationship with Robinson.

Louie said that in both cases, the partner moved into Louie's Noe Street home, got keys to the house and cars, lived rent-free, used the home as his permanent address, and slept in Louie's bed. Both Mosley and Robinson made improvements to the home, by painting rooms, installing track lighting, or making minor structural modifications. Both shared household expenses with Louie, but also received money from Louie on occasion. In neither case did Louie set up joint checking accounts or establish joint credit accounts with the other man.

Despite the similarities, Louie said he considered Mosley to be his husband, but Robinson to be

only a houseguest.

Threats and knives

By the end of their relationship, matters between Louie and Robinson deteriorated to the point of threats and restraining orders. Robinson testified that one day, he found LeRoy in the house, "waving a knife around," and had to call the police to have him removed.

On another night, Robinson told the court, he awoke to find Louie standing over him with a knife, threatening to kill him.

"Before I give you a red cent, I'll see you dead first," Louie allegedly told Robinson.

On Tuesday, at the request of Mori, Montali dismissed Robinson's claim of fraud, ruling that the plaintiff's attorneys had failed to establish a prima facie case for fraud. The court also denied Robinson's claim to have a valid "putative" marriage under California law.

At the same time, Montali provided both sides an opportunity to submit post-trial briefs on the issue of whether two gay men living in the Bay Area in the 1990s have a legitimate claim for sexual battery, under California law, when they engage voluntarily in acts of unprotected sex.

Mori told the B.A.R. he expects some gay organizations may want to file amicus curiae briefs in the matter.

In this day and age, Mori said, "everyone agrees that two guys who engage in unprotected sex assume the risk of being exposed to HIV." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Good news for gay community

Mayor unveils \$3.9 billion budget plan

by Cynthia Laird

Mayor Willie Brown presented his proposed \$3.9 billion budget for San Francisco and accompanying spending plan for 1998-99 to the Board of Supervisors Monday, June 1. Consistent with the mayor's previous budgets, this one contains no new taxes, no major increases in assessments or fees, and no layoffs.

"I am just delighted," the mayor said as he unveiled the budget plan. He added that the budget includes a \$97 million surplus and doesn't cut or cancel any programs.

"It continues to hold every city department accountable and focuses expanded resources on my highest priorities," the mayor stated in his budget message. "This budget continues my commitment to providing our city with the necessary resources to address issues of concern to all of us, including AIDS/HIV, breast cancer, domestic violence, public safety, and disability access."

Regarding homelessness, the mayor proposed investing an additional \$8.4 million in excess of last year's adopted budget to further develop a continuum of care that works to move people from the streets back into the city's mainstream. The proposed budget also contains the continued funding for up to 600 shelter beds

at the Mission Rock Shelter.

One of last year's big budget categories was substance abuse on demand and that, too, received an increase in the mayor's proposal. An additional \$4.5 million is in the budget, both to continue and expand the level of substance abuse treatment services that were added this past year.

"For every dollar we spend today on drug and alcohol treatment, we save seven tomorrow," the mayor stated.

What's in it for us?

Slightly more than \$1.6 million in the proposed budget is set aside for various services of particular interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and HIV communities.

An estimated \$812,000 has been budgeted for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project (CCP). Additionally, two new initiatives that came out of the Mayor's AIDS Summit in January are being funded. An estimated \$700,000 has been earmarked for two programs: the HIV/AIDS Employment Development Unit would expand and coordinate employment services for people living with HIV/AIDS with services that may include career counseling, training, and education; job placement and listings; benefits counseling; support groups; and public information and related referrals. The unit's

services will be integrated with other governmental, private sector, and nonprofit community-based services.

The second program to be funded would be the innovative "Action Point Centers." This would be implemented as a pilot program and would assist PWAs adhere to the rigorous medications regimens that are often required for effective treatment. The mayor's office anticipated that two neighborhood-based centers will be phased in during

the new fiscal year that begins July 1. The action point centers will be integrated with existing HIV/AIDS service providers to enhance client convenience and resource utilization. Services may include dispensing and storage of medication, peer education, case management, outreach, support groups, and distribution of products and informational material.

Another department that saw an increase in the proposed budget is the Human Rights Commission (HRC). The depart-

ment's budget increased by \$110,000 for additional staff dedicated to resolving complaints of discrimination filed on the basis of HIV status, sexual orientation, and domestic partner status. The Department of Public Health (DPH) will fund a new HRC representative to help bring an additional 3,000 contractors into compliance with the equal benefits ordinance.

The Board of Supervisors will hold hearings on the budget over the next several weeks. ▼

White House

◀ page 1

continued, "There is an empty suit."

Steve Michael's "finest hour" was when he was hounding and haunting the president," said his former presidential running mate Ann Northrop. "And I remain secure in the knowledge that he will haunt this president forever."

"Bill Clinton is a murderer. This death and tens of thousands of others must be laid at his doorstep. He is a liar. And he is letting people with AIDS die, on purpose. We will not rest until this crisis is over. We will not rest until the crises of poverty, and race, and class, and gender that drive this epidemic are over," Northrop said.

San Francisco activist Michael Petrelis recounted first meeting Michael in 1992. He recalled how

the dead activist had said, "We have to hold Governor Clinton accountable, just in case he makes it to the White House."

"Let's remember all of the broken promises, lack of needle exchange, lack of full education about prevention of AIDS," said Petrelis.

"I have one thing to say to the president: 'Clinton lies, we die.'"

Bishop George Stallings called Michael "a man of deep passion who pursued justice wherever there was injustice. This dream of Steve Michael was far larger than life itself. He was a man who gave his life in defense of human rights and human dignity."

Pain

"Barbara and I are here to say goodbye to someone who we both loved very much," said Turner. "The man sitting in the build-

ing behind us promised us six years ago, that if elected president, he would make AIDS a top priority of his administration.

"This president committed, to this man lying here right now, that he would launch an all out research effort to find a cure for AIDS. That he would appoint an AIDS czar to lead this country's efforts against this epidemic. He promised universal healthcare, regardless of the ability to pay. The man who lives in the White House made those promises and did not keep them."

"If we had had a 'Manhattan Project' to cure AIDS from Bill Clinton's first hundred days, I would not be here now. Nor would Steve. Shame on you Bill Clinton. Shame on you. Bill Clinton, you say you feel my pain. Bill Clinton, you have caused my pain, said Turner. ▼

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Are you getting the right HIV treatment?

by Bob Roehr

About 25 percent of people starting treatment for HIV are given therapy that is below treatment federal standards. The finding is part of a National HIV/AIDS Treatment Survey of 476 physicians experienced with HIV, conducted by the Louis Harris polling firm. It was released Wednesday, June 3 at a Washington news conference.

The current set of treatment guidelines took form about a year ago and the federal standards were formally adopted in the fall. They call for initiating therapy with a triple combination of drugs, with the goal of reducing viral load below detectable levels in the bloodstream. They have been modified five times since November.

The survey revealed that patients receiving suboptimal care are more likely seeing a physician with limited experience with HIV, they generally have more advanced disease before they begin treatment, and they are more likely to be women and people of color. More than half of the physicians are likely to withhold specific therapy, if they believe the patient will not adhere to the treatment regimen.

The survey divided physicians into five categories, each of which



New knowledge: Dr. John G. Bartlett (left) and Dr. Paul Volberding shared their findings with the media at a June 3 D.C. news conference.

wrote 20 percent of antiviral prescriptions. Tier 1 treated an average of 349 patients. "I can tell you from doing this practice, that 350 patients with HIV infection is a big patient load," said noted AIDS doctor John G. Bartlett, from Johns Hopkins University. "That's a full time job."

The category with the smallest number of providers, Tier 5, treated an average of only 59 patients, or seven percent of their total work load. Paul Volberding MD, from the University of California at San Francisco Medical School, believes those numbers may be skewed by physicians who have only a tiny number of HIV patients. If that is the case, then perhaps there are "a group of patients that are truly receiving therapy that is way outside the guidelines." But the survey did not allow for that kind of distinction.

Both experts reiterated the growing need for specialization in treating HIV. "I don't know how many patients it takes on average to become experienced enough" to treat patients effectively, said Volberding. It is more a matter of keeping up with the fast evolution of knowledge in the field.

Bartlett called HIV "different than any other field in medicine because of the velocity of new information. The people who are doing AIDS care belong to a network that is unique in medicine." That includes meetings, and "we

use the net a lot," he said.

"If we wait for the information that drives clinical decisions to appear in standard medical journals, we are going to be way behind."

Eight percent said no

The survey did not address questions of access to care. "We surveyed by prescription," said Bartlett. "Therefore, if a patient couldn't afford a drug, we wouldn't know about it because nobody would write up a prescription."

Volberding said that the question of access is more than a simple one of having insurance coverage or not. "What you would like to know is whether the specific insurance plan, whether it is public or private, allows for the open prescription of these drugs. Medicaid in some states is very supportive, in others it is not." The same can be said for individual private health insurance policies.

The survey found that Medicaid accounted for 39 percent of prescriptions, and AIDS Drug Assistance Programs 12 percent. Approximately eight percent of patients declined to go onto a combination regimen, primarily because of side effects or the difficulty in adhering to the dosing schedule.

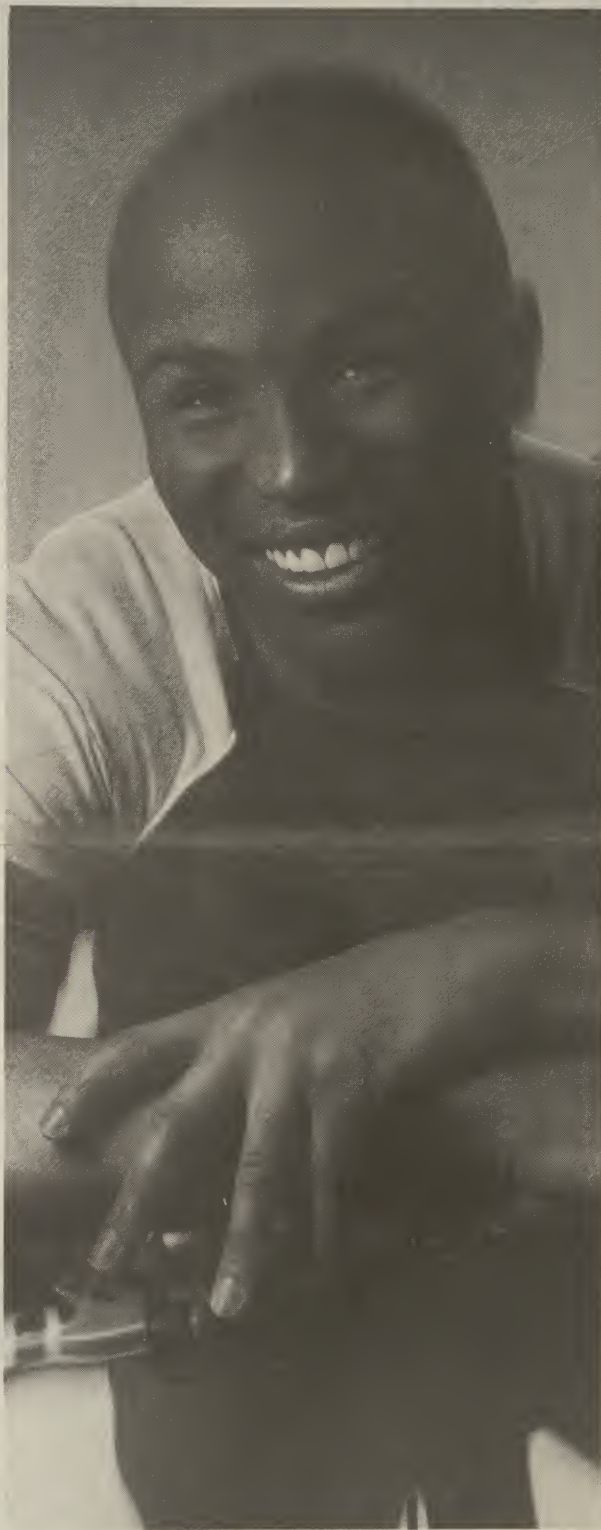
Funding was provided by a grant from the pharmaceutical company Merck. It pledged to support further surveys in consultation with Bartlett and Volberding. ▼



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Basic science: Q & A with Mark Goldsmith



Dr. Mark Goldsmith

by Jeff Gustavson, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Arguably the most essential area of AIDS research is conducted at basic science laboratories across the country and around the world. Since there is so little understanding and awareness of either the science or the process of basic research, this writer sat down with one of basic science's rising stars to discuss the issues. Mark Goldsmith, M.D., Ph.D., 36, is both an assistant investigator at the Gladstone Insti-

tute of Virology and Immunology and an assistant professor of medicine at UCSF, where he received his training. Co-chair of the basic science subcommittee for the strategic planning process (which had two community members in its composition) of the newly created AIDS Research Institute, Goldsmith displayed his excellent skills as administrator and facilitator.

Q: Let's lay the groundwork. What is basic science in relation to HIV?

A: Basic science is seeking answers to fundamental questions in the bi-

ology or pathogenesis of the disease. The difference between a basic and an applied study is that the basic might have implications beyond the initial questions that were asked. Many studies address both applied and basic questions simultaneously. An example of such simultaneous research would be a study of the thymus [the organ where T-cells mature and take their name] *in vivo*: how it develops normally, how it ages—basic or fundamental information—as well as telling us how HIV may affect it.

What about translational research?

Translational research is a term around which there is no consensus. This lack of a uniform definition creates a great deal of confusion both among investigators and lay people. A fair definition might be that translational research involves asking questions that are both clinical in impact and basic in nature.

Why should the average HIV-positive person care?

It has been said that "the most applicable form of research is basic research." Although this may appear to be a contradiction, basic science creates an essential and broad foundation of knowledge upon which to base new ideas for improved diagnosis, prevention and therapy. Without new knowledge, we would quickly run out of ideas to take into the clinic.

What are the great unsolved questions of HIV pathogenesis? The biggest question that surprisingly is not yet known is how HIV causes depletion of CD4 [T-helper] cells. Many mechanisms have been proposed, but the relative importance of each is unclear. The second question that all would agree is ex-

next page ►

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION.

ZERIT® (stavudine)

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 10/96. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A1455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT (stavudine) for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing ≥60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range: 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline, 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic.

Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Table 1—Incidence of Disease Progression

	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.2%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients
 Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Carriers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

MKI to monitor increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
 Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/ml, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/ml, with and without metabolic activation).

* The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C: Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) was observed at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.17 L/m². The distribution of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/ml, at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 0.10% to 12% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 84 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 233 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).
 Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2
Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	Study A1455-019 ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	Parallel Track Program ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)
Peripheral Neuropathy		
Grade 1-2	11	3
Grade 3-4	4	2
Total	15	5

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials

Adverse Events	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	28
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pharyngitis	8	8

* This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

* Includes all clinical complaints.

* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities*

Lab Tests (units)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (<5.0 x ULN [†])	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (<5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (<5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8 g/dL)	-	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13

* This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

* Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

* ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED
 ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Table 5

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 164 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 165 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 166 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 167 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01).

US Patent No. 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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FP-8001A-10-96

Adapted from: P4577-04

Revised October 1996

Recycle your unwanted medication and save lives

Donations of unused medicines are being accepted for a Cape Town and Guayaquety Township Clinic in South Africa that is providing for people with HIV.

Please call 415-252-9200 to arrange a pick-up or bring donations by the ACT UP/Golden Gate Office at 592B Castro Street (Castro and 19th), any Tuesday evening during our weekly meeting from 7:30p.m. until about 9:30 (sometimes later, call to see if someone is in the office).

No controlled substances can be accepted. Donations received prior to June 24 are especially needed. ▼

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Thomas A. Edison April 1930 — June 5, 1998

Thomas A. Edison died suddenly at Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo on Friday evening, June 5. He was 68.

Tom was born in Albert Lee, Minn., and attended the University of Minnesota. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in 1952. He re-



tired from Chevron as a geologist specializing in palynology. He was called back from time to time as a consultant.

Since moving to Vallejo from San Francisco in 1988, Tom had been tireless in promoting the city, especially the St. Vincent's Hill neighborhood. He was president of the association there several times. He also supported his favorite charities by growing plants and restoring lamps and chandeliers, which he then donated to their thrift shops and auctions.

Tom is survived by many friends in the Bay Area and Southern California, and two sisters, Jean Hyland of Ashland, Wash., and Nell Bodin of Washburn, Wash. A reception for his friends and neighbors is planned at his home in Vallejo for Saturday afternoon, June 27. No flowers please. Memorial donations should go to your favorite charity.

Douglas Cole Monschke Jan. 19, 1948 — May 10, 1998

Our friend and loved one, Douglas, died suddenly on Mothers' Day while attending a theatre performance, one of the great loves of his life.

Douglas was born in Dayton, Ohio.



A graduate of Fairmount High School (Kettering, Ohio), he started college life at Washington University in St. Louis, studying architecture; he later switched majors and finished a B.A. in theatre arts at the University of Cincinnati.

Douglas moved to San Francisco in 1980 after some time in NYC driving a cab and then working for Barnes and Noble. After working in the Bay Area for the Social Security Administration, he got a job at Stanford University as head of Current Periodicals in the Green Library, where he had been employed ever since.

Douglas is survived by his mother, Virginia Cole Monschke of Kettering; an aunt and uncle, Dell and Kenneth Monschke; Jack Monschke and other cousins; and a host of friends in the Bay Area.

A memorial gabfest for friends will be held Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m., at the San Francisco home of Bruce Purdy, 349 Corbett Avenue (off 17th Street between Mars and Clayton). For more information, please call (415) 431-8349.

Douglas will also be remembered at a memorial requiem that same morning at 9 a.m. at the Church of the Advent, 261 Fell Street (SF), for those wishing to attend.

Rest in peace. We'll miss you.

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ACT UP

◀ previous page

tremely important is whether and how the immune system can control and/or eliminate HIV. For the most part, all the studies we do in our lab, as well as many others in their respective labs, are in one way or another answering those two questions. Other important issues include where and how is the virus hiding (latency), why is the CCR5 coreceptor so important to disease, and how does HIV cause disease in non-lymphoid tissues, such as the brain.

What is your lab currently working on?

Our lab is particularly interested in the mechanisms behind immune depletion. Like many others, we believe that specific properties of the virus may be triggering the loss of CD4 cells, which eventually leads to AIDS in people. One of those properties is the glycoprotein envelope of the virus that determines which coreceptors [CXCR4, CCR5, CCR2, etc.] are used, which specific types of cells are infected, and which cells are killed during infection. There is a causal relationship among these features, and we are trying to define what that causal link is.

How do you negotiate the tension between the "go your own way" traditional investigator-initiated research, and the more top-down business style approach of project management?

I am a very strong believer in the enormous power of investigator-driven research. Although I understand how this process can be perceived as meandering, it is extremely effective at promoting creative, thoughtful, and productive scientific efforts. Who better to determine the proper questions than the people at the bench, as long as they are paying close attention to the disease and clinical relevance. Investigator-initiated research can sometimes result in dead ends, but you don't know they're dead ends until you run into them.

Managing the process from the top down requires you to have a very good sense of where you should be at some point in the future. We [activists and scientists] share a long term goal of ultimately eradicating this disease, but there is no obvious single path to achieve this. Micromanaging

can really impair the process. On the other hand, encouragement through focused funding mechanisms can in fact be very effective at stimulating progress in under-served areas of research.

We have to remember that had the NIH [National Institutes of Health, part of the Public Health Service, which, in turn is part of the Department of Health and Human Services] only funded targeted research to the exclusion of investigator-driven research, Ed Berger would never have discovered coreceptors. This breakthrough discovery created a new paradigm that affects our understanding of this disease and creates new targets for intervention. [Trimeris' T-20 is the furthest along in exploiting this knowledge, now in Phase II human clinical testing].

Is there an overreliance on postdoctoral fellows, who may not be in any lab beyond a couple of years?

Virtually every scientist around would prefer to spend their time at the bench than in the office. But we rely on trainees at all levels, along with permanent staff for several reasons. One main reason is that investigators in training bring maximal levels of creativity to the process. A second is that trainees often stimulate more thoughtful and careful analysis with extraordinary professionalism. Thirdly, science requires a constant exchange of ideas, and new research labs will be headed by former postdoctoral fellows, who have benefited through this process.

Often, important discoveries are made in basic science that are reported by the newspapers in such a vague fashion as to be nearly meaningless - "a protein important in the immune system" - and sometimes incorrect. At the same time, scientific journals are beyond the reach of most of the public. Can you comment on this?

There are lots of potential downsides to lay press reporting, yet it is critical to maintain contact between the public and the scientific enterprise. It is ultimately the responsibility of the scientific community to communicate what we do to those who pay for it. This task would be facilitated by a better science curriculum in the school system to create a vocabulary and conceptual framework for understanding scientific discussion. My colleagues at the Gladstone Institute and the broader UCSF scientific community would be delight-

ed to communicate with nonscientists in organized symposia. Many of us already do this.

Many people have a clear recollection of Reagan's HHS Secretary Margaret Heckler saying on TV in April of 1984 that now that Bob Gallo had discovered the virus responsible for AIDS, a vaccine would be two years away, and implying a cure would not be much further. In the '60s, JFK began a program to put a man on the moon in less than ten years. Why, 17 years into the epidemic are we still so far from either a vaccine or a cure?

A technology mission like the Apollo project is both exciting and inspiring, but follows a much more direct path than does the discovery process required for understanding a newly discovered human pathogen - which is not to say we haven't made tremendous significant decreases in morbidity and mortality [sickness and death]. Extraordinary discoveries about the virus and immune system have been made that have profound implications beyond HIV including cancer and other human disease. HIV has had ages to evolve its destructive pathogenicity. We've only had a decade or two to unravel it. ▼

New AIDS Clinical Trials!

2 New Research Studies

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■ For more information call: Matthew Sharp 415-476-9296 x 360

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(He loved food, drink and music in general and cabaret in particular.)

Cash Bar

Bring good memories

(and any item you would like to have included in the Gary Menger Memorabilia Collection of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society)

Flag day

by Jim Provenzano

June is busting out all over! This Saturday, June 13, Team San Francisco ushers in the start of Gay Games V with The International Rainbow Memorial Run and Celebration. This begins the journey of the Rainbow Flag as a symbolic "torch" from San Francisco, the "Athens" of the Gay Games, to Gay Games Amsterdam. The flag will be raised at the high point of the Opening Ceremonies in Amsterdam.

The running of the official flag raises awareness of lesbian/gay issues of health, happiness, and acceptance and serves as a memorial to athletes and artists who have fought AIDS, breast cancer, and the health concerns that threaten our community.

The celebration's theme will be "Dream!" How appropriate. Why, the other night I was dreaming of a hirsute freestyle wrestler from Croatia...

Anyway, participants will be encouraged to send their hopes and dreams (of any sort) for health, happiness, and acceptance to the Gay Games, expressed on dream ribbons that will be combined to form rainbow flags to be carried into the Amsterdam Arena, as Team SF continues the tradition of being the first team to march into the Opening Ceremonies. I know, it sounds cheesy,

but by the time we get the flag to Amsterdam, there won't be a dry eye in the Arena.

Team San Francisco Uniform Committee chair Allen Wood informed the *Bay Area Reporter* that they will not be able to ship the uniforms in time to meet the June 13 distribution date. The uniforms will not arrive in San Francisco until July 10.

A new distribution date has been set for Saturday, July 18 at the Eureka Valley Community Center from 1-4 and Sunday, July 19 from 2:30 to 4. If you cannot come on those dates, you may sign a note designating another person to pick them up.

The festivities begin at 11 a.m. in the park adjacent to Eureka Valley Recreation Center (which, by daylight, may not be familiar to some of you). The celebration will feature gay and lesbian performing arts groups, in addition to sports demonstrations and information from the 30-plus clubs comprising Team San Francisco.

Heath-related, non-profit organizations are invited to join the resource info tables to distribute literature and information (more energy bars and drinks, hopefully). Music, dancing, a sports-related business expo, plus food and beverage booths (yeah, I want Cheesy Poofs!) will round out the activities.

The event will culminate with a memorial run of the flag

through the community to Castro & Market streets (that'll wake up the bar flies), where it will be raised in honor of Tom Waddell until the flag's departure via cycle relay to San Francisco International Airport the following day. Now that's a heck of a commute.

This whole shebang is brought to you by Team San Francisco and The American Run for the End of AIDS (AREA), in association with The Federation of Gay Games, The NAMES Project and The Keith Haring Foundation. For info call Team SF at 415-522-2386 or visit our website: www.sirius.com/~teamsf.

Those 'dam organizers

Some people have been quite unhappy about the prospect of handing over the Gay Games torch to a different country. There's been a lot of sniping about Amsterdam being unprepared, and there are still a lot of quibbles and snags in regard to events. Some of these issues will be covered here, just as soon as I can part the facts from the hissy fits.

In the meantime, let's all remember that the Gay Games is about fun and participation, shall we? This is a great opportunity to support your fellow jocks on their journey into uncharted Dutch waters. Can you imagine competing in a land without Odwalla Super Protein?

Scrum again

Big hunks. Big hunks play ball. Big hunks play ball with no padding but their own big bodies.



The eagle has landed: U.S. Men's Rugby Team hunk.

Did you know that The Eagles, the United States Men's Rugby Team, practices in Berkeley? They're playing at Balboa Park this Saturday, June 13, against the Japanese national team.

This incredibly awesome event

is right next door to City College, Ocean and Phelan streets, near the Balboa Park exit. Take the J, K, L, or M MUNI trains. Ride a bike. Walk. It's worth it folks. \$12 advance; \$15 gate. Visa and MasterCard accepted. (510) 643-1971. ▼

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of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital

GAY GAMES UPDATE

Swimming now an official Masters tournament

by Nellie Voss and Paul Van Yperen

This week the international swimming body FINA officially recognized the swimming competition of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 as a Masters tournament.

This approval insures that the performances of the 1,250 participating swimmers will be internationally recognized as Master records. A Masters record is recognized on a national, European, and worldwide level by the FINA.

Gay Games Sports Director Jip van Leeuwen, and Joop van Eijk, coordinator of swimming, are very happy with this result. Van Leeuwen said, "We got many positive reactions, for instance from Australia. We've tried to make good use of all the advice and suggestions we've received from all over the world. This tournament will be in the true spirit of Tom Waddell's adage: 'Taking part is more important than winning.'"

Standard categories for Masters swimmers are in five-year increments (25-29, 30-34 etc.). However, Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will be altering the categories in the older age groups because the number of swimmers registering in those groups is relatively small. The organizers have therefore decided to form one category for men of 65 or over, and one for women of 60 years and older. These swimmers will however, compete in their own age group.

Any records that older participants establish in the standard Masters age groups will be valid. When two or more persons are swimming in one age group, a medal can be won. Each swimmer will receive a participant's medal.

"This will be the biggest swimming tournament ever," van Eijk said. "We hope that this event will be good promotion for gay sports in general. Therefore we've decided that the tournament shouldn't be bigger than it is now and sadly we had to limit the number of participating teams to the relay events. But we've added 50-meter finals to be held on Thursday. We are very proud that the mayor of Amersfoort will be one of the special guests then, because the city of Amersfoort has done a tremendous amount of work to make the event possible."

"Other attractive highlights for the public are the Opening Show on Sunday, August 2 and the Pink Flamingo Show, full of dance and acrobatics by swimming teams, on Friday, August 7." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Roller derby

◀ page 1

other teams' home areas without damaging their fan base, because of the special bond between the team and the community. The competition in the American League can be compared to an industrial softball league; because most of the players are local, they each have their own fans.

Lee said that the team would most likely skate in a regional Northern California or State league, and any national tour would have to be on a city-by-city basis. As an African-American gay man, he said he has first hand experience with bigotry and intolerance, both from fans and promoters.

He recalled an instance when he was supposed to sign autographs at a Mobil, Alabama club in 1974, but, because of his race, the management wouldn't let him in. Finally, a table was set up on the sidewalk next to the door. "I couldn't believe it," he said, "I was shocked. I was from Berkeley; I didn't understand this."

Another time, in Louisville, Kentucky, the skaters got to the arena to find all the lower level seats were filled with white people; the African-American fans were made to sit in the balcony.

The teams refused to skate, and the game was canceled.

The next night the skaters returned to the same building, after the arena management had changed the policy to allow people to sit wherever they wanted. It was a sellout.

The kind of camaraderie that prompted those players to stick together for positive change is surprisingly typical of roller derby, where the action is rough and hard-hitting, but opposing skaters still follow the tradition of getting together for a few friendly beers after the game.

Not that the friendly demeanor away from the game minimizes their ability to get in their digs—including real physical digs—while playing. Lee said, "We can be the best of friends—take Bombers coach Frank Apodaca or Demons coach Alfonso Reyes. I love them dearly, but once we put that uniform on, our game-face comes on and we do what we have to do."

He said fights do happen, and sometimes they continue into the bars, but they try to save it for the next game.

Shortage of women

The idea of adding a queer club is not the only one that has

been discussed around the league recently. Another involves gender differences. Historically, more men have come to the training programs creating a surplus of men, and a shortage of women. There has been talk of splitting the men's and women's squads into separate teams. A men's division could be made up of say five teams, while a women's division may have only three teams.

This split would not diminish the women's role; in fact, it would increase. The way the game is now played, the women skate the first through seventh odd periods, and the men skate the second through eighth even periods. The women pass the final outcome of the game to the men at the end of the seventh period. Only if there is an overtime game do the women play for the win. The development of both team and individual personalities would be enhanced with smaller and separate clubs.

It would also reduce overall game and travel costs. With seven to nine skaters traveling, instead of 14 to 16, teams would have more flexibility in scheduling games and could find smaller arenas, such as the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, profitable.

If a team is to be formed representing the queer community, it would have to be based on fans' interest. A large number of queer roller derby fans at Kezar Pavilion this Saturday night, cheering for the Bombers and calling for the formation of an up front and out front queer team, would have a big impact.

For those gays and lesbians who aren't satisfied to merely cheer the derby players—but harbor dreams of joining them—the American League operates a "game day" roller derby training program. Both the training session, from 2-4 p.m., and Jan Vallow's Roller Derby Workshop, from 4-5:30 p.m., are open to all skaters. Interested skaters should dress in comfortable clothes and may bring inline or quad skates. Space is limited; anyone interested in either event should call the roller derby hotline. ▼

Game time is 7:30 p.m. at Kezar Pavilion, at the southeast corner of Golden Gate Park. Tickets for the game are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children 12 years old and under, and are available at all BASS outlets. Tickets will also be available, on the day of the game, at Kezar Pavilion. The roller derby hotline number is (408) 292-7783.

Rebel Episcopal prelates to give book talks at MCC

by Mark Mardon

Two leaders of the Episcopal Church, whose unorthodox views have gained them respect from the queer community and condemnation from their peers, will speak on successive nights next week at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. The events will be held at MCC-SF, located at 150 Eureka Street. They are free and open to the public, and are sponsored by MCC-SF and A Different Light Bookstore.

Walter Righter, assisting bishop of the Episcopal archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, will discuss his new book, *A Pilgrim's Way*, this Wednesday, June 17 at 8 p.m. The

autobiographical work tells the story of the heresy trial Righter was forced to endure in 1995 after Righter ordained an openly gay man in 1990. Ultimately, the ecclesiastical court found Righter had violated no church doctrine.

John Shelby Spong, who recently retired as Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Newark after 22 years, will discuss his latest volume, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, Thursday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. In that philosophical work, Spong proposes the radical idea that traditional theism is no longer credible. He contends Christians need to come up with new conceptions of god, envisioning a force or a source of light rather than a patriarchal figure. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221823

The following person(s) are doing business as D.B. Images, 512 Sanchez St. San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Galen F. Cook. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name on 04/02/98.

The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/02/98.
MAY 21, 28 JUNE 4, 11, 1998

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: IL Barone INC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3854 Geary BLVD San Francisco CA 94118. For the following type or license: 41 ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE.
MAY 21, 28, JUNE 4, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222555

The following person(s) are doing business as 2001 INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONSULTING, 15 Teresita Blvd. Unit #12. San Francisco CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert L. Wucher. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 05/04/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/04/98.
MAY 21, 28 JUNE 4, 11, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222877

The following person(s) are doing business as Desertion of The Grave, 35 Beatrice Ln. #4, San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Anton Jones. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 05/18/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/18/98.
MAY 21, 28 JUNE 4, 11, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222915

The following person(s) are doing business as Six of One Services, 242 ML Vernon Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed

ness is conducted by an individual signed Cindy Six. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/19/98.
MAY 28, JUNE 4, 11, 18, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223177

The following person(s) are doing business as Michael's Cleaner, 2235 Polk St. SF CA 94109. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Pak. Song Yong. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/1/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/1/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223123

The following person(s) are doing business as Oakes and Associates, 5 Corbett Ave, SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Oakes. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/29/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222951

The following person(s) are doing business as Flower Power Landscaping and Gardening, 579 Noe St. SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Benjamin Todd Kelley. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 5/20/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/20/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223062

The following person(s) are doing business as Gay Places, Cont. #48 Cayuga Ave. SF, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Green. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 5/26/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/27/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223149

The following person(s) are doing business as The National Joy Band, 1224 Castro St. SF, CA 94114-3232. John S. Bello, 3819 Howard Ct. South SF, CA 94080, William B. Young 389 Howard Ct. South SF, CA 94080, Keith E. Lyle, 3819 Howard Ct. South SF, CA 94080, Kevin C. Larson 2959 24th St. SF, CA 94110. Lawrence T. Heaton, 620 Shotwell St. SF, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an General Partnership. Signed Keith E. Lyle. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/01/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223252

The following person(s) are doing business as Quotidian 250 Sutter St. #310, SF CA 94108. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Nicola Miner. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/03/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/03/98.
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223267

The following person(s) are doing business as Quentix Consulting 1390 Market St. #2828, SF, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Quentix Dobras. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/04/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/04/98.
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223300

The following person(s) are doing business as POIDOG Handyman Services 420 14th St. #3 SF, CA 94103-2303. This business is conducted by an individual signed Devin Navarro. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/05/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/05/98.
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

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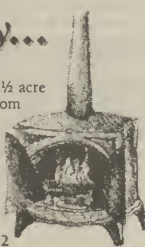
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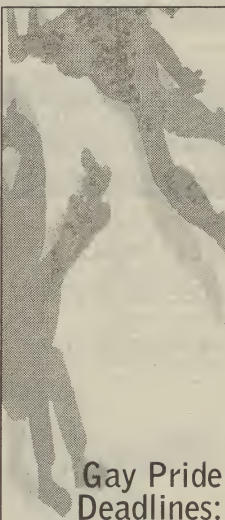
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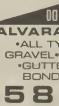
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Homeliest man at Berkeley
Killian and Ellingham's new
biography of poet Jack Spicer.
page 46

Dumbed-down Berg
San Francisco Opera turns
tragic 'Lulu' into Betty Boop.
page 44



Itchy pussy galore
'The Opposite of Sex':
Dedee on a rampage.
page 38



ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 24 • 11 June 1998

ODC/San Francisco dancer Kevin Ware shifts gears

Exit stage left

by Aimée Ts'ao

It's really exciting and really scary. I'm completely overwhelmed," said dancer Kevin Ware. And so he should be, as he is poised to dance his final performance with Oberlin Dance Company, finish his dancing career, and start a family. After eight seasons with ODC/San Francisco as an extremely powerful and inspiring dancer, Ware decided it was time to leave before he had that last injury which would force his retirement and leave him with a damaged body for the rest of his life.

"I want to be able to play tennis and not be crippled," he said. "I've had a good career. It's always been important to me to dance at a very high level, but there is a price you have to pay. When I was younger I had a lot of energy, and now I see that same insane pushing with the younger dancers in the company. But I can't do certain things any more, because of some physical problem. I can't do a fall because of my bad knee, or a lift because my arm is injured. When we get older, we know more and can use our bodies more efficiently. But it's not the same as being able to push to the limit."

Over the span of his tenure at ODC, he has seen significant changes in both the company and himself. He likes to think that he helped start the trend of hiring bigger men and smaller women, as the choreography called for more lifts. He experienced an increase in the intensity of the work as new dancers brought a higher level of technique and artistry. "They kept me from being too comfortable. Working with ODC made me a better dancer and a better choreographer. I was just a dancer when I first arrived, and I became an artist. I learned how to have an opinion about why something works or not. Brenda [Way] made me think differently, and KT [Nelson] made me move differently." When Kevin realized that he had never seen ODC perform because he was always onstage, he generously said, "I can't wait to see other dancers one-up me in my old roles."

"My parents are coming out for my last performance," he added. "It's almost as if they are more upset about my stopping dancing than I am. I went to prep school and university, and

page 47 ►

Kevin Ware with
Heather Tietzsort in
ODC/San Francisco's
Dancing Downtown '98.

RJ Muna

American as Apple Pie and Castro on PBS

Travels through queer America

by Victoria A. Brownworth

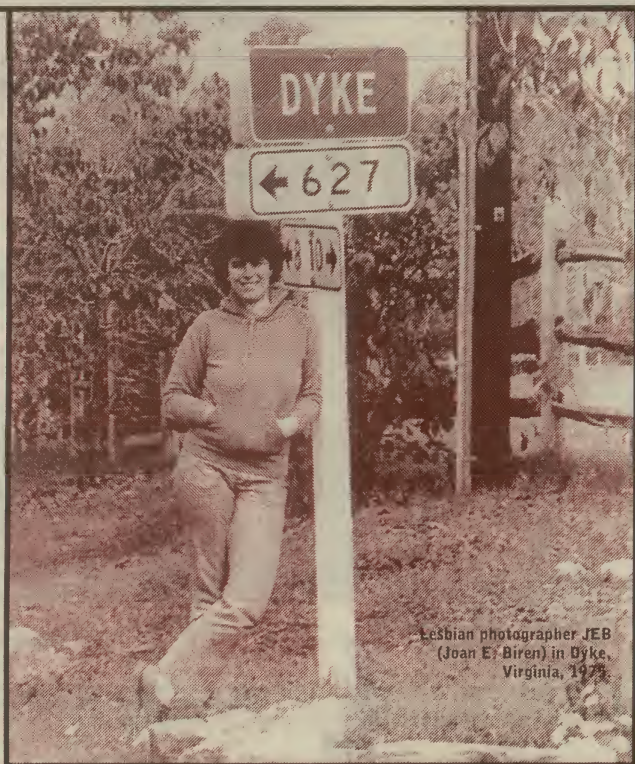
As celebrations of Pride month begin, PBS-TV responds with programming for a queer audience. Among the offerings: *Castro*, a documentary about the growth of queer community and politics in San Francisco since World War II, and *American as Apple Pie*, a glimpse of past and present elements of queer society in America from the TV newsmagazine series *In the Life*.

American as Apple Pie is a compelling hour introduced by the show's host, Katherine Linton. This episode examines the participation of lesbians and gay men in traditional American life, including politics, the military, marriage, religion, the family, and business — a little something for everyone.

Particularly impressive is the segment devoted to longtime activist and former NGLTF executive director Virginia Apuzzo. Apuzzo was a nun in 1969 when the Stonewall Rebellion in Greenwich Village set the gay and lesbian liberation movement into full swing. She left the convent and embarked on a life devoted to lesbian and gay politics.

Today, as assistant to the President, she is the highest-ranking openly queer official ever to serve in the federal government; Apuzzo literally runs the White House, and in

page 45 ►



Lesbian photographer JEB
(Joan E. Biren) in Dyke,
Virginia, 1978

JEB

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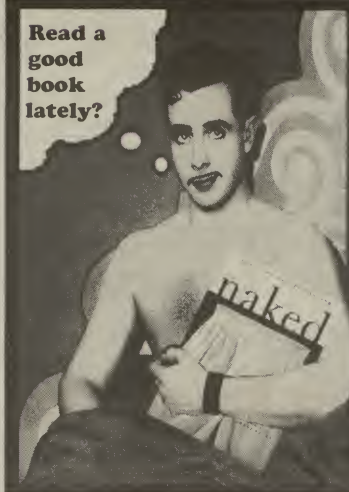
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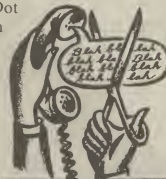
Permit us to begin with a gay exclamation point: That's the BAR's very own John F. Karr up there on stilts, wearing the giant rainbow flag, on the cover of the Official 1998 San Francisco Pride Guide!



How does it feel to be the cover boy for 98 Pride?

"Swell!" says Karr.

But of course everyone gets those lousy 15 minutes of fame. The theme of the recent anniversary party at the Stud was something like Polka-Dot Prom, and we've seen more snapshots of scenesters decked out in spots from our usual roving spies/nightlife photographers than we care to see in a lifetime. But we thought this one said it all: the Prom King and Queen, looking impeccably polka. That's Heklina in the male drag, but anyone know who's Queen for a Day? As usual, we're clueless.



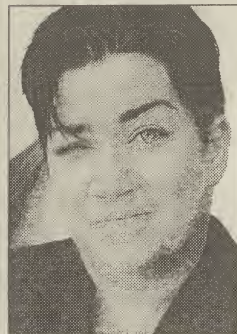
Out There

couldn't work without hiring him?). Although the life is fit for the tabloids, we hope all the grit being flung doesn't obscure the Judy who looms so large in her performances. She would have been 76 yesterday, June 10.

But are you ready for Lea DeLaria Meets Judy Garland? DeLaria's large performances have put her, or at least her name, on many people's tongues. The overboard dyke, who got her start in San Francisco, is still infuriating PC lesbians, as documented in several recent Letters to the Editor of *Genre* magazine, following a typically irreverent interview therein. She hasn't changed since she scan-



Judy Garland



Lea DeLaria

New religion: Judyism?

Judy lives! It seems Lorna ("I'm the other daughter") Luft's tell-all book about life with Judy Garland has kicked off a rash of Judymania. Gay producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron are turning Luft's *Me and My Shadows* into a four-hour TV miniseries. *Movieline* magazine reports it may be followed by two full-scale Hollywood efforts — a Martin Scorsese-directed biopic from DreamWorks, and a gritty exposé of the star's declining years, from Garland's ex-husband and manager, Sid Luft (whom biographers treat none too kindly when detailing Judy's trials. After their divorce, didn't Luft withhold Judy's musical arrangements so she



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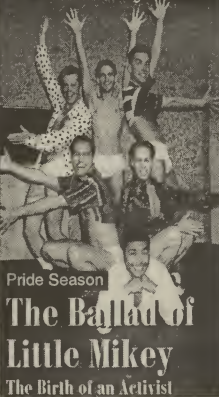
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Lea is currently touring in the revival of *Chicago*, playing Matron Mama ("When you're good to Mama, Mama's good to you!") Morton. Although it's a role Sharon McNight oughta be lusting after, Lea's got it. But she's skipping out of *Chicago* for a tony affair at Carnegie Hall called *Judy—Carnegie Hall Celebrates the Music of Judy Garland*. Judy is so big that this gig is spread over two nights. Hosted by Lorna Luft, its headliners are a swell bunch for Lea to pal around with, including Bebe Neuwirth (also on a night off from *Chicago*), Bobby Morse, Jerry Herman, Vikki Carr, Dee Hoty, Mort Lindsey (who conducted Judy at Carnegie Hall), and the one and only Elaine Stritch. Will Lea be the first bulldyke America takes to heart? Stay tuned.

Gay for pay

So what did you think of the new Michael Tolliver on Showtime's *More Tales of the City*? A change, anyway, from Marcus D'Amico, who played quintessential 70s gay man Michael in the first go-round. A change that could not come too soon, it seems, for author Armistead Maupin. According to our writer Robert Julian, who got it right from the Maupin's mouth, D'Am-

THEATRE

'Burning Blue' Slow burn

by Richard Dodds

Burning Blue, the gays-in-the-military drama now at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, doesn't generate much heat in its first act. But the brushfires set before the intermission grow increasingly intense in Act Two, and emotions are ablaze by the final curtain.

D.M.W. Greer's play arrives in San Francisco following its dark-horse success in London in 1995 and a recent run in Los Angeles. Director John Hickok, who helmed both of those productions, has staged the work here, but the local version feels stripped down, and slowed down. The fancier sets and special effects that marked the London production aren't necessary when a play has the right stuff, but they probably helped boost Greer's debut effort

as a playwright.

Greer, himself a former Navy man, has created a tale of love that blossoms between two Navy fliers, and the ramifications that strike them and those around them when the Navy begins a merciless investigation. Greer leaves it to a straight country-boy character to deliver the message of tolerance, a bit of soap-box oration that might be better acted out than spelled out.

The open-minded cracker is played by Martin McDougall, repeating the role from the London and Los Angeles productions, and he is indeed a keeper. In addition to a delightfully wry performance, McDougall provides a bold moment of nudity in a scene with an in-your-face appeal.

Kevin Otto, a veteran of the L.A. production, offers a vital performance as the young pilot who becomes the target of the Navy witchhunt. As the Navy buddy

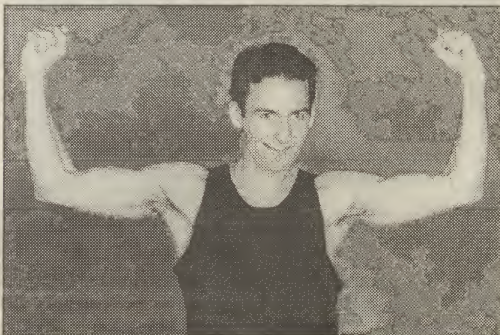


Tom Astor and Kevin Otto in *Burning Blue*.

who becomes his lover, Tom Astor turns in a solid performance, while Tim DeKay helps create the last-act emotional sparks as a straight flier unable to deal with his friends' emerging sexuality. There is more good work from Adam Clark and Don Mackay as the Navy investigators, and from Elisa Taylor and Michelle Azar as the women in the pilots' lives.

Despite a strong cast, this *Burning Blue* doesn't always create the rush that the material seems ready to provide. This is a story of men who fly jets that too often is told at a propeller pace. ▼

Burning Blue will run at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre through July 5. Tickets are \$25-\$30. Call 474-8800.



Kirk Mills as the title character in *The Ballad of Little Mikey*.

'The Ballad of Little Mikey' Nativity story

by Richard Dodds

There is so much fun packed into the first act of *The Ballad of Little Mikey*, and it is offered with such imagination and go-go energy, that the regular rhythms and earnest messages of the second act register as a bit of a let-down. But after all, the musical is subtitled "The Birth of an Activist," and sooner or later the party has to stop so the political nativity can begin.

Little Mikey has arrived at the New Conservatory Theatre a few years after making a big splash in Los Angeles, and it marks the debut of a promising musical-comedy talent. Mark Savage wrote the book, music, and lyrics for the musical, and he has also directed the local production. In all capacities, he displays talent as well as a keen insight into what makes a theatrical moment work.

Told in flashbacks, as Mikey decides whether to stop starving for the cause and join a big law firm, we visit with him at key moments in his gay evolution. Many of the stops will be familiar, from jerking off to dirty magazines, to trying to find other "normal" gays, to discovering easy sex, to first relationships, to political awakenings. And of course, that big moment: telling Mom and Dad.

Savage's music is tuneful, at times with hints of Sondheim,

and his lyrics are often ingenious. It all comes to a head, well, in the head. The musical number "Tap" is somewhere between Busby Berkeley and Federico Fellini as restroom sex gets the song-and-dance treatment, while it is still put in a forthright perspective.

The cast, though of variable talents, is in step with Savage's style. The production gets a big assist from Kirk Mills' highly likable rendering of Mikey, a performance that is savvy but refreshingly unslick. An able Mark Farrell is somewhat somber even for Mikey's button-down lover, but Chris Dille is full of a twinkling energy as Mikey's first boyfriend. Neal Allen Hyde scores some of the biggest laughs as a waspish friend, and Harold Smith, as an elder activist, pulls off a difficult anthem to tilting at windmills. Sean Kelly, Alfredo Victorio, and James Wheeler complete the cast.

Little Mikey sometimes feels like a class in Coming Out 101, but it's a musical-comedy version of gay studies. Even though Mikey wonders if he can be a good homosexual since he hates musicals, it is obvious that Savage merrily fills the bill. ▼

The Ballad of Little Mikey will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through July 18. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 861-8972.

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'Balm' for the Bay

by Deborah Peifer

London Wilson is a playwright with an astonishing ability to capture the poetry of the everyday, to get beneath and between the people who live on the margins. His early play *Balm in Gilead* explores the lives of the habitués of an all-night New York diner with wit and pathos and pain. The characters and their milieu are so realistically portrayed that the first time I saw the play I found myself wondering if I had, in fact, been in that diner and seen those very people. Lisa Steindler, Encore Theatre's artistic director, chose to

produce *Balm in Gilead* not only because she loves the play, but also for the sheer pleasure of seeing 22 actors on stage, a rarity in these days of tight budgets.

Encore Theatre is 13 years old. Founded originally by students and faculty from A.C.T. as a summer theatre to showcase their work, the company is independent now, but maintains a loose connection with A.C.T. "About half the actors in this show are from A.C.T.," Steindler explains, "and so am I." Tired of two-per-

son shows, which cash-strapped theatres produce to ease budgetary woes, Steindler decided to look for "an actor-driven show for [her] actor-driven company." She chose *Balm in Gilead* because she "was interested in experiencing the life of the piece. Any one of us could be, with a small shift in our fortunes, any one of these characters." She is particularly pleased that there are 40 people

working on the project: "actors, designers, tech directors — it's

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Dames people play

by John F. Karr

Dames at Sea is famous for being the little show that could. It began life in 1968 as a cabaret entertainment, and quickly grew into an Off-Broadway hit that launched the career of Bernadette Peters, and had a lengthy run in a legit venue. On a postage-stamp-sized stage and with a bare-bones cast of six, the show saluted those Busby Berkeley cast-of-thousands movie musicals of the 1930s, in a fond and gently-toned spoof. And to spoof a spoof is redundant. That's why

the current production now at the Marines Memorial Theatre, despite its friendly cast, clever choreography, and buckets of production value, is a qualified success.

Instead of playing it straight, taking as a role model the sincerity of Ruby Keeler in the original movie, or the sincere tone to be heard on the Off-Broadway Original Cast album, this *Dames* leers at every line, underscores the obvious, and relishes its own jokes so much that the audience is rendered far too passive.

This broad approach also damages the show's lovely score. The songs, with titles like "That Mister Man of Mine," "Choo-Choo Honeymoon," and "Good Times Are Here To Stay," pay homage to 1930s standards. Yet they stand on their own, and are a hummable collection of charming, graceful tunes. Not so much in this version, however, where they are banged out as if they were Sousa marches. So much for charm and grace.

I can only wonder if much of this approach was due, at the performance I saw, to opening night hysteria, and whether the show will mellow as it runs. I should hope so, because there is a lot to enjoy in this *Dames*. The script has a surfeit of snappy jokes. The choreography and direction of Scott Thompson are quick and



Paul Leggett Chase, Andrea Chamberlain, and Ellen Harvey in *Dames At Sea*

full of surprises, the costumes are a stylish riot, and even the set has its tricky delights. And the cast is really swell. You can trust all these elements to entertain. Still, I wish director Thompson had trusted his material a little bit more, for under the estimable razzle-dazzle he brings this *Dames*, I can't help feeling he's missed the heart of an adorable, endearing show. ▼

Dames at Sea plays the Marines Memorial Theatre through July 5; call 771-6900.

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Playwright David Rabe on 'Mercy' Straight-talking

by Richard Dodds

David Rabe is known as a playwright who writes about guys. Straight guys. His early plays, including *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel*, *Streamers* and the Tony Award-winning *Sticks and Bones*, emerged from his own experiences as a draftee in Vietnam, while his best known play, *Hurlyburly*, focuses on a group of drug-fueled Hollywood good 'ol' boys.

But in *A Question of Mercy*, his latest play, two of the central characters are gay lovers. Was it a challenge for him as an emphatically straight playwright to get into the minds of gay characters?

"I don't know how to answer that," he said during a recent phone interview before giving it a try. "If I do it [create a gay character], it is because it is appearing for me. I didn't have to set out to do it, but after it is done, then you wonder whether you've done it well or not. And actually, I think it's all become different now, too. There's more of a critique about one's accuracy in those ways."

In the case of *A Question of Mercy*, Rabe was not creating the characters from whole cloth. In fact, writing the play was some-

thing of a different process for Rabe, 58, who usually prefers to tap into his unconscious and just let it flow, with molding and shaping coming later. The play is based on an article that ran in *The New York Times Magazine* in 1991, and the skeleton of the plot and characters was already there.

"It's like archeology," Rabe said from Connecticut, where he lives with wife Jill Clayburgh. "You find something and have to figure out how it came into being. To fill in the gaps, you still have to let your imagination have some freedom. But I also had the very strong guidelines of the material."

Confessional essay

The article that struck Rabe as so "harrowing and powerful" that he became determined to dramatize it was written by Dr. Richard Selzer, who recounted in a confessional essay his involvement in helping plan a doctor-assisted suicide. In the play, as in the actual case, a doctor is called in by a gay man whose lover is suffering with AIDS to help plan a suicide. The process proves far messier logistically, and emotionally, than anyone expected, and there are unexpected twists in the end.

"The play is about the rational effort to cope with something that

is not rational," Rabe said, "and then having the couple's relationship stressed and finding themselves beginning to fail one another despite the heroic efforts. The people are never quite on top of the situation, and the play doesn't always proceed in ways that audiences would prefer that

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Rudy Guerrero and L. Peter Callendar in *A Question of Mercy*.

REVIEW

'A Question of Mercy' Have mercy

by Richard Dodds

A *Question of Mercy* is a fine two-hour play. Unfortunately, the play David Rabe has written is closer to three hours. The repetition of themes and the sometimes windy fashion in which they are delivered get in the way of their impact, which still is felt in a sturdy production at the Magic Theatre. But this is a case where less could be so much more.

In the play, inspired by a doctor's magazine-article account of his awkward foray into planning an assisted suicide, Rabe drives home the inherent dilemmas of helping a loved one end his or her life. The characters all believe intellectually in the concept of allowing an early end for one who is suffering, but they can't control their emotional responses to what remains a visceral taboo. What begins as a well-meaning endeavor evolves into something a shambles.

The year is 1990, and AIDS is the cause of the suffering in this case. Anthony, his dignity and spirit sapped by the disease, has convinced his lover to help him find a way to bring it to an end. Thomas calls on a retired physician he met socially, and the doctor, against his better judgment, allows himself to be drawn deeper into the case. It is largely through his point of view that we observe the unfolding events, and it is he who illuminates the themes in a series of soliloquies that unfortunately grow increasingly heavy-handed.

The production at the Magic doesn't necessarily alleviate what ails the play, but it is in touch with the strengths of the piece. Director Benny Sato Ambush takes a steady, unhurried approach to the material, and leads a polished cast toward emotional truths behind the somewhat sketchily drawn characters. He also finds humor in what could seem a deadly serious scenario, enough so that a comic-relief doorman character becomes an intrusion.

L. Peter Callendar plays the good doctor with an air of increasing bemusement, creating an interesting character of nervous nobility. There is a fussy selfishness about Anthony, who wants to die, that Rudy Guerrero emphasizes in his intense performance. As his lover Thomas, Francis Jue lends humor to the play with his awkward attempts at civility as they plan the death. Valerie de Jose plays a friend of the couple, but her earnest work can't fully spark this mechanical character.

A Question of Mercy delves into a topic that is regularly in the news, and that spurs passionate debates about morality. But Rabe, looking at the issue from the inside out, provides a very human perspective. It's too bad his insight didn't include the benefits of brevity. ▼

A Question of Mercy will run through June 28 at the Magic Theatre. Tickets are \$15-\$26. Call 441-3687.

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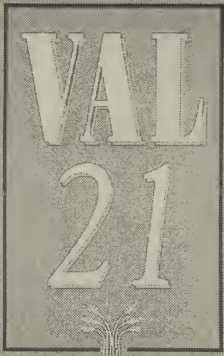
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June 22nd @12:00Christina Ricci as Dedee and Ivan Sergei as Matt in Don Roos' *The Opposite of Sex*.

'Opposite' attracts

by Robert Julian

In his casting of trailer-trash teen vixen Dedee Truitt, writer/director Don Roos gives actress Christina Ricci the role of a lifetime. In Roos' film, *The Opposite of Sex*, Ricci's character is a 16-year-old, foul-mouthed, insulting, manipulative bitch with a chronic case of itchy pussy that metastasizes into pregnancy. And you can surrender all those thoughts of morally redemptive character traits; if you saw Dedee get hit by a truck, you would stand up and applaud.

Around this highly idiosyncratic heroine, Roos wraps a cast of emotionally dysfunctional characters. Dedee's wealthy half-brother Bill (Martin Donovan) is still in mourning after the AIDS-related death of his former lover. Bill is sullen, self-involved, and living in denial about his feelings toward his new, much younger boyfriend, Matt (Ivan Sergei). Big of eye and full of lip, Matt is a pouty boytoy so dumb and insecure that, after Dedee arrives on Bill's doorstep seeking sanctuary from her troubled Louisiana home, Matt allows her to seduce him. Lucia (Lisa Kudrow), the sister of Bill's deceased lover, sees through Dedee and her manipulative intent, but no one pays attention until it's too late. Lucia—who is unattached, embittered and frigid—can't seem to find anything good to say about anyone, including herself. But Sheriff Carl Tippet (Lyle Lovett) sees potential in Lucia that he wants to nourish.

The lives of all these characters collide in unpredictable ways when Dedee puts her plan for personal advancement into action. Money is always the object of Dedee's attentions, and her path to acquiring it ultimately leads to blackmail, murder, robbery, slander, and a cross-country chase from Indiana to Los Angeles. There is a lot of homophobic and AIDS-phobic vitriol spilled along the way, but Christian fundamentalists and left-wing liberals get fairly equal treatment.

Don Roos, who also wrote the screenplays for *Boys On The Side* and *Single White Female*, writes great dialogue and creates inter-

esting characters, but in *The Opposite of Sex*, he is almost hoisted by his own petard. Dedee provides a voice-over narration for the film, one that is every bit as self-conscious as Fred Savage's character in *The Wonder Years*, but twice as mean. Dedee berates the audience, sets them up for an emotional response, then ridicules them for having the natural human reaction. Roos' writing here is edgy and original, but when combined with the essentially unsympathetic nature of the entire cast, it causes one problem. Although there are lots of laughs, it's hard to identify with, or care about, any of these individuals. Roos' in-your-face, combative style is not only distancing but, at times, potentially offensive.

Emotional paralysis

As Bill, Dedee's half-brother and foil, Martin Donovan replicates the detachment of the chronically depressed. Although he tries to do the right thing, emotional paralysis is Bill's overriding character trait. Ivan Sergei is perfect as the brain-dead, hunky boytoy, and Lisa Kudrow successfully creates the '90s equivalent of a Victorian spinster. Lyle Lovett, as the sheriff, displays a talent for acting that is precisely equivalent to that of *The Lady Chablis*. Like Chablis, he should not give up his day job. Director Roos extracts from most of his principals exactly the kind of performances called for by his writing, but it is Christina Ricci who benefits the most from Roos' material.

In *Freeway* (a withering update of "Little Red Riding Hood" which became the cult favorite of

1997), Reese Witherspoon is given the role of an equally audacious female juvenile. But what differentiates that character from the character of Dedee is the wide range of emotions Witherspoon was able to draw upon in illuminating the harrowing journey of *Freeway*'s vengeful young heroine. In *The Opposite of Sex*, Christina Ricci, gifted with great dialogue and an original story, has been handed a role with a more narrow range. The cinematic precedents for deconstructing Dedee Truitt can be traced back to Ann Blyth's portrayal of Mildred Pierce's daughter, and Patty McCormack in *The Bad Seed*. Both of these roles reflect single-minded self-interest and a pathological need to manipulate others for personal gain. As Dedee, Christina Ricci delivers these qualities with an added element of trashiness and just a touch of self-doubt. She chews the scenery with great abandon and obviously is having a high old time.

The Opposite of Sex succeeds most when it is bursting the bubbles of social convention, and few films in recent memory have done this as well. It is a wild, uneven ride, and a tour de force for writer/director Don Roos. Working as a screenwriter for other directors is an experience Roos likens to watching someone else raise your child "while you watch through a chain-link fence." With *The Opposite of Sex*, Roos should be able to put that experience behind him. ▼

***The Opposite of Sex* opens Friday, June 12.**

David Rabe

◀ previous page

it did. That can be disorienting." *A Question of Mercy* opened in New York last year to generally favorable reviews, and has been quickly picked up by regional theaters across the country. Its success has helped Rabe partly rebound from the lashing that his previous play, *Those the River Keeps*, received from the New York critics in 1994.

"I've had bad reviews before,"

Rabe said, "but I never had the experience where in my heart I thought the play was good and then it just got butchered, and that does something to you. You don't know what to trust anymore. But it is certainly good that *A Question of Mercy* has been received the way it has, and I very much like the idea of it being done around the country by different people. The idea of New York has been a big deal to me, and it's hard to completely give that up, but it's not productive, I'll tell you that." ▼

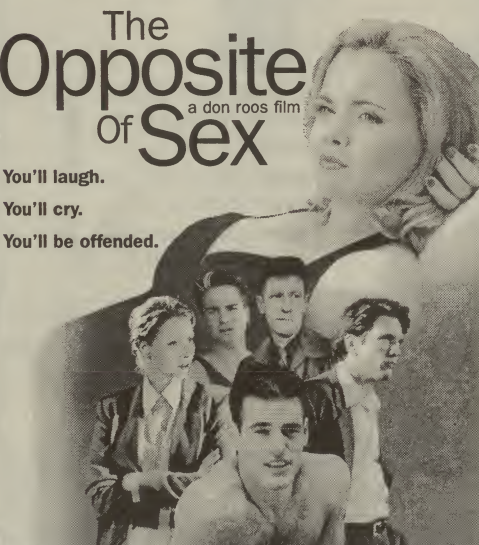
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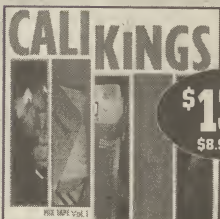
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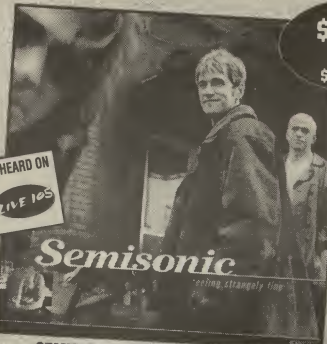


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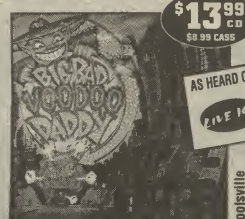


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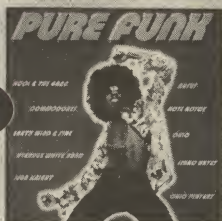
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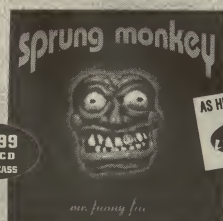


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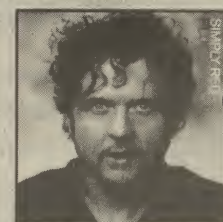


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Summer sizzlers (and snores)

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The hype over the end of shows like *Seinfeld* carries its own momentum. Finality attends the end of a television season. There's the hectic flurry of season and series finales, the can't-miss episodes, the cliffhangers. Tapes stacked and ready, VCRs whirring, TV is all we can think about until mid-June, when it's finally over and we can all breathe a collective sigh of sad relief.

Now we can all whine, in unison: *There's nothing to watch.*

Of course, dear readers, there really wasn't anything to watch before the season ended, but we hate to spoil the delusions of others. In fact, the networks provide their own remedies for the nothing-to-watch problem: summer replacement series (uniformly dreadful), the return of series with so-so ratings from the fall (no,

Ellen will not be among them, but *C.16* is), and advertising campaigns to make reruns more intriguing, like NBC's "new to you" propaganda. Our suggestion, given our love-hate relationship with TV, is that one spend the summer as it should be spent, reading (remember books?), visiting friends, having a romantic fling, or languishing by some pacific body of water.

We know our gentle admonitions to get a life will not stop you from reaching for that *TV Guide* or contemplating getting cable for the summer. Thus our suggestions for summer network-viewing include examining those programs with queer content and watching those that haven't been renewed for fall.

Bid adieu to Dr. Quinn, *Medicine Woman*; *Brooklyn South*; *Michael Hayes* (David Caruso really made a bad career move when he left *NYPD Blue* for greener pas-

tures. Are you listening, Jimmy Smits?); and nearly every mid-season sit-com. Queer-friendly Cybill Shepherd, who has appeared on the cover of *The Advocate* nearly as often as she appeared on the cover of *Seventeen* as a young model, is moaning to anyone who will listen that *Cybill*, her eponymous gal-pal sit-com with the sublimely acerbic Emmy-winner Christine Baranski, has been canned.

Bathrobe tease

We don't do cable because we can't imagine actually paying to watch TV, but we did note *The Larry Sanders Show* was canceled, which interests us because one of our fave faggots, that insouciant Canadian Scott Thompson (the butchest—and only really gay—member of the old *Kids in the Hall* ensemble), was a mainstay of the show. However, as we watched *E.T.* and *Access Hollywood* do their send-off, we saw a clip that made our jaw drop most unattractively. Mr. X-Files, David Duchovny, did an imitation of Sharon Stone's interrogation scene from *Basic Instinct* as part of the *Sanders* series finale. Yes, there he was in a white bathrobe crossing and uncrossing his legs, with that same come-hither look, showing the dark triangle. Parody or no, it may have been the queerest thing we ever saw on network TV.

Speaking of queerer things, there was an outré exchange a few nights ago on the show we love to hate but can't stop watching, *Politically Incorrect*. Host Bill Maher and frequent guest Scott Thompson got into it, as they are wont to do. The topic had shifted from Clinton's sex life (we know he didn't dipstick Monica Lewinsky: she doesn't have a bad dye job) to New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and domestic partners legislation. Thompson had suggested Giuliani would look better in a leather cap and crop outfit. Maher said to the other three guests, "I think he's gay." Thompson, without missing a beat, rejoined about

Maher, "I think he'd like to be." As queer comedian Judy Tenuta says, You thought it, I said it.

It's repartee of this caliber that keeps us tuned in night after night, breathless for the next *bon mot*. It also is one of the few shows on at night not in reruns.

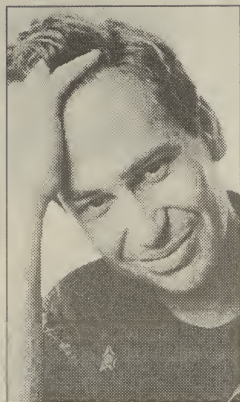
Speaking of reruns, we recommend NBC's *Just Shoot Me*, which is very queer, despite its straight cast, and *Newsradio*, which stars that other *Kids in the Hall* alum, David Foley (who looks better in a

dress than any woman we know). *Newsradio* also stars

the late Phil Hartman, recently murdered by his wife. Hartman was a supreme genius of irony and camp. He played straight, gay, and everything in between on *SNL* for eight years. *Newsradio* has a fine comic ensemble, but Hartman's absence will be felt. Catch him in reruns now before the fall season puts him to rest.

Anent finales, season episodes we hoped would be queer but were insufferably hetero included Fox's *Party of Five* (no violins, alas); ABC's *NYPD Blue* (where are Paige Turco's lesbian character, Abby, and her baby?); CBS's *Chicago Hope* (we hope Vondie Curtis-Hall will get a storyline come September); and NBC's *ER* (what happened to that encoded dyke doc?). Memo to the house execs: Unearth your queer characters for fall, please.

Finally, we note with our



Scott Thompson

tongue planted firmly in our cheek (which is not our favorite place to plant it) that the annual Tony Awards show has adopted Rosie O'Donnell as its permanent host, due to her adoration of the theatre (and perhaps her long Broadway run in *Grease!*). No other TV talk host has theatre folks on *ever*, let alone every week. We have seen Ann Reinking on *Rosie*'s more often than we have seen her on Broadway. We would simply like to remark that the theatre has always been the purview of certain folks, thus the choice of Rosie over Tyne Daly (she only looks like a dyke, and it has become difficult to find enough sequins to cover her) does not surprise us. However, we do believe the airing of the awards comes *apres* the spring TV season because this is the only way to get straight people to watch a show about theatre, *mais non?* After all, *there's nothing else to watch.* ▼

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Dyke/queer comedy group Baby Snatching Dingoes present selections from their upcoming show, "Bare Breasted and Ready to Rumba," as part of the New Queer Performances segment of the San Francisco Queer Arts Festival, Thurs.-Sat., June 11-13 at 8 p.m. at SOMAR, 934 Brannan St. Also performing: the outrageous comedy trio Latin Hustle. Tickets are \$10-15. Call 552-7709. ▼

TELEVISION

In The Life

◀ Arts cover

doing so imbues that process with a lesbian sensibility and queer sensitivity, as we see in the piece which follows a day in her working life. Notes Apuzzo, "I grew up in the 40s and 50s in the Bronx. When people called you 'dyke,' they didn't mean it in a nice way. ...I'm delighted at how far we've come and how far we go every day. I never thought we could be here."

Selling queer culture

Contrasted with the segment on Apuzzo's journey through lesbian activism into mainstream politics is the piece on selling queer culture, about entrepreneurs Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, creators of World of Wonder, a multimedia production company. Managers of RuPaul, producers of RuPaul's TV talk show, and general pushers of all things queer, Bailey and Barbato produce queer programming for American cable TV as well as England's Channel 4 and the BBC.

A gay couple who have been together for 16 years, they are purveyors of what Bailey calls BED — the bold, edgy, and daring. Through and through capitalists, they have taken their interest in gay and lesbian pop culture and marketed it to the masses, straight and queer (they made RuPaul the phenomenon he/she is today). Fun and flashy, this piece shows queers have chosen a range of ways to seek inclusion in straight society.

Another segment on lesbian images, "Recording Lesbian History — Snapshots and Sounds," profiles lesbian photographer and videographer JEB (Joan E. Biren) and the Olivia Company (formerly records, now cruises). This piece manages to combine the political elements of the Apuzzo piece with the entrepreneurial aspects of the World of Wonder segment.

Tracing the history of JEB's work as a recorder of lesbian images, we see how the simple set of photographing lesbians in all aspects of their lives was a uniquely political act in the early days of gay liberation.

Packaging lesbians

Judy Dlugacz, one of the co-founders of Olivia Records and now CEO of Olivia Cruises, describes the then-"new" field of women's music in 1973, when Olivia produced its first record — packaging lesbian music, lyrics, and musicians for the first time.

This piece has real resonance

when contrasted with today's widespread lesbian music culture, where performers like Melissa Etheridge, k.d. lang, Tracy Chapman, and the Indigo Girls have broad appeal among straight and queer audiences. Yet when Olivia produced its 1977 album *Lesbian Concentrate*, it was in direct response to Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign in Dade County, Florida. *In the Life* notes how the impact of the work of these women still reverberates today.

Other segments include an in-depth look at non-gay religious leaders embracing and fighting for queer rights, like Rev. Jimmy Creech in Omaha, Nebraska; the GLAAD media awards and the gay and lesbian music awards; the continued fight for queer engagement in the military and legalization of same-sex marriage; and a piece on a gay male couple together for 23 years in Eldora, Iowa who have cared for 18 foster children over the last decade.

Our only criticism of this episode of *In the Life*, not a single woman of color (unless one includes RuPaul, who appeared as much in male drag as female drag). The only men of color were RuPaul, the Rev. Cecil Williams, and L.A. correspondent Bill Britt, who did the piece on World of Wonder. In fact, given the pieces on the GLAAD awards and religion, there were actually more straight people than people of color in the hour. An episode airing during Pride month would better serve our entire community if it reflected all members of that community, and looked a little less white and a little less middle-class.

Heart of the Castro

Diversity is at the heart of Castro, however. Of the many friends this reviewer has in San Francisco, only one is a native of the city by the Bay. For queers, San Francisco remains, as one colleague who moved there from the East Coast after one visit avers, "the Mecca for queer sensibility." Greenwich Village may have spawned the Stonewall Rebellion, but San Francisco remains our queer heartland.

Thus for many, the Peabody Award-winning documentary *Castro*, directed by Peter L. Stein and produced by San Francisco's PBS station, KQED, will feel a bit like a home movie, a video of our collective coming out. This film might have been subtitled, "Out of the closets and into the Castro."

A well-crafted, beautifully edited, and highly comprehensive history of America's premiere queer neighborhood, *Castro* is

moving, extremely inspirational, critical and vitalizing. It charts the slow and subtle shift from a repressive anti-queer area of the nation to the Mecca it now is, from Eureka Valley to the Castro, from a place that rounded up queers in police wagons to a revolutionary arena where Harvey Milk was assassinated, gay men died by the thousands of AIDS, and a new political force was born.

One needn't live in San Francisco or ever have visited to be deeply moved by this bittersweet documentary that is perhaps more dramatically about all our lives than any other film about lesbian and gay culture, politics, and society. With commentary by historians and activists like Allan Berube, Phyllis Lyon, Del Martin, Brian Freeman, and Cleve Jones, as well as other women and men who both lived through the changes and are living through them now. ▼

American as Apple Pie airs on KQED, Channel 9 at 11 p.m. on June 22. **Castro** airs on Channel 9 on June 12. Check listings for time.



From the Peabody Award-winning documentary *Castro*.

1998

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Vocal ensemble Chanticleer Choral illuminations

by Philip Campbell

Billing themselves as "America's premier vocal ensemble" in the program notes of a recent concert might have made Bay Area choral group Chanticleer sound a little vain, but the truth of the matter is that even after 20 years of performing, they really aren't exaggerating.

Their 1997-98 season has taken them to 27 states, and included a challenging tour of the American Southwest and Mexico that featured music of the Mexican Baroque and allowed for rare orchestral backing from a band of period instruments.

Chanticleer, named for the "clear-singing" rooster in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, has become after two decades not only a local institution, but also an international attraction.

When newly-appointed Artistic

Director Craig Hella Johnson assumes his duties full-time in September, he will face the daunting task of maintaining an established reputation for excellence and expanding it.

The group's latest concert series at their signature performing venue, Mission Dolores Basilica, was a case in point. Is it possible to improve upon something that is essentially flawless? "Don't mess with success" might become Hella Johnson's motto, but there is always room for minor fine-tuning, and some surprise repertory choices could enable him to make a mark.

Speaking critically of the recent program is no easy chore, either. Finding quibbles with a perfect evening would probably make an entertaining read, but would not fairly portray the event or characterize the ambiance.

The beautiful interior of the Mission Basilica retained enough

twilight before the concert to illuminate the magnificent stained-glass windows and match their glowing reds to the lovely altar decorations in celebration of the Feast of Pentecost. A large sculpture of a dove hovered at the top of the huge cross, draped in deepest crimson. Quite a setting for a concert dedicated to sacred music in praise of Mary, mother of Jesus.

The cathedral was a typical backdrop for a Chanticleer evening, and a wonderful acoustic boost to the group's justifiably renowned ensemble. The *a cappella* program ranged from Gregorian chants to Renaissance works by Palestrina, Guerrero and Josquin, to contemporary pieces, notably by Trond Kverno and the increasingly popular Einojuhani Rautavaara.

Director's score

Perhaps the most surprising and moving success of the lengthy concert was the West Coast premiere of Chanticleer Music Director's bold and mysterious *Mater Dolorosa, Filia Laetitiae*. Joseph Jennings emerged from the audience to conduct his own wonderful score. The piece was commissioned by a consortium of four groups (the Dale Warland Singers, Phoenix Bach Choir, Los Angeles Vocal and Instrumental Ensemble, and Chanticleer).

Needless to say, the piece was beautifully sculpted by the twelve-man team, singing in a circle and producing some haunting and achingly beautiful sounds. The ovation was extended and sincere.



The men of Chanticleer.

I still find it disconcerting to applaud in church; it was verboten in childhood. But the sheer exhilaration of hearing such gorgeous music performed with art and skill permitted me to join in with enthusiasm.

A very minor visual distraction occurs with the chorus's tendency to sway in time with the music, but this idiosyncrasy is probably unavoidable, as they are usually singing without a conductor and must find a way to keep the beat together and prompt vocal entries.

The thrilling clarity of Chanticleer's high voices is underpinned

by the occasionally shocking depth of the baritones and basses. The homogenous blend is "like buttah," and the glorious strands of intertwining sound rate very high on the "gooseflesh meter."

The level of musicology and adherence to authentic practice has made the group famous, but the sheer beauty of their sound makes them unforgettable. If you're looking for wisecracks, you won't find them here — although one wag was heard to say at intermission, "They can't be that authentic, they sound too good." ▼

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Curtain Up!

◀ page 40

important to me that the theatre support Bay Area artists."

Recognizing that "the starving artist idea gets old very quickly," Steindler's dream for the company's future "is to hook up with another theatre company and find us both a home, with Encore producing each summer. I want to create a feeling of company, a place in which to take risks." *Balm in Gilead* plays at the Magic Theatre, Fort Mason, June 19-July 13. Call 441-3687 for tickets.

Another of Lanford Wilson's plays, *Talley's Folly*, the story of Sally Talley and Matt Friedman, two inept lovers who find each other in 97 real-time minutes, runs June 17 through August 2 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. I know it's a trek, but *Talley's Folly* is one of the great romantic plays of this or any century. Call (650) 903-6000.



Julie Eccles and Jackson Davis in *Talley's Folly*

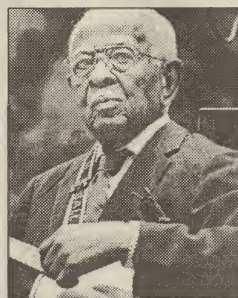
Searching for space

Michael Kearns (*Intimacies, Rock*) e-mails: "I'm doing a new piece, *Telltale Kisses*. Would love to bring it to SF but just don't know about the venue, etc. It used to be so easy, but the marketplace seems overcrowded. Maybe a one-nighter somewhere. Any suggestions? It got a rave review in the *Los Angeles Times*. I play three generations of gay men, facing morality and mortality. It's very romantic." If you have any ideas for a suitable performance space, send them in. A chance to see Michael Kearns is not to be missed.

Summertime blues, etc.

The weather may be all wrong (rain? in June?), but we know that summer has arrived because it's time for the Stern Grove Summer Festival. Hannah Vogel, assistant to the director, says that "this year we have an excitingly diverse program. Stern Grove is not all about classical music. We have blues and gospel and jazz, too."

The free concerts kick off on June 14 at 2 p.m. with Island Spice, featuring performances by Bamboleo, one of Cuba's hottest bands, as well as the Bay Area's own Rebeca Mauleón & Round Trip, featuring an eclectic blend of Afro-Caribbean styles, American gospel, and flamenco textures. Future Stern Grove events include the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and a fully staged production of *The Magic Flute*, performed by the Merola Opera Program. For more information, call 252-6252, or visit the web site at www.stern-grove.org. All performances are free, so bring a blanket (hell, if it stays this cold, bring several) and a picnic, and enjoy wonderful performances in a gorgeous setting. Stern Grove is located at 19th Av-



Preservation Hall Jazz Band

enue and Sloat Blvd. Parking is limited, so take the bus.

Piercing Pinter

No one looks at the dark side of relationships better than Harold Pinter, and *Old Times* is one of his best, darkest, and most perplexing plays. This A.C.T. production runs June 11 through July 12. The Prologue discussion for *Old Times* takes place on June 16 at 5:30 p.m., and it's a wonderful opportunity to hear the director talk about the play, to ask questions, and hang out with people who love Pinter as much as you do. The Prologue is free. The June 18 performance is a Bring What You Can/Pay What You Wish night. Just bring a donation of canned fruit, juice, tuna in water, or boxes of cold cereal for Project Open Hand, and you can buy a ticket for any amount you desire. All events take place at the Geary, 415 Geary. Call 749-2228 for info. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a performative nature, send them to dpeifer@delphi.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Kevin Ware

◀ Arts cover

having a dance career just wasn't what I was supposed to do. But once they got used to the idea and actually were proud of my dancing, they are having trouble letting go. I've been thinking about stopping for quite a while, so it's been a gradual process and I'm fine with it, but it's just hitting them now."

ODC just returned from a two-week tour of Switzerland, where they enjoyed an enthusiastic reception. Ware felt the tour was difficult because they had nine performances in twelve days, each one on a different stage, in addition to performing two new works.

"Our plate was full. But audiences really loved us. It was very touching. We got ten curtain calls from the Swiss, who aren't exactly warm people." The tour made him both sad and angry, because in San Francisco, ODC has never received a similar reaction, and the company has not received the attention or been accorded the respect he feels it deserves, no matter how hard they have worked.

Along with Ware, KT Nelson is also retiring from performing. Kevin noted, however, that KT has a smooth transition planned. She will stop performing, but will continue to choreograph and teach in her children's program. By contrast, Ware has no transition planned, just an abrupt halt and then a radical change of direction. Half a year ago, after he made an offhand remark that being a parent might be interesting, a friend suggested that he meet a lesbian couple she knew who were looking for an African-American man, possibly involved in the arts, to father a child with them.

If all goes well with the biological details, within the next year Kevin will become a parent.

Family matters

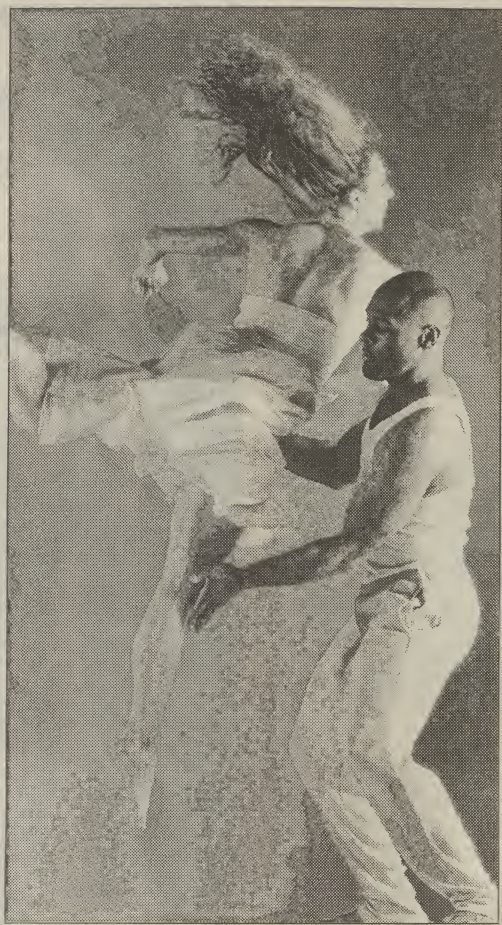
Fortunately, the couple is eager to include Ware in the family, and get him involved with parenting responsibilities, not just in making a genetic contribution. There are many important aspects to be considered in defining his own role in the child's life. "A child is not a commodity," he said. "All decisions concerning it need to be made with the idea of what is best for the child. Not what I want or

After he made an offhand remark about parenting, a friend suggested he meet a lesbian couple she knew who were looking for an African-American man.

what the mothers want, but what the child needs. We have to have an agreement based on love. I want to raise a good person, a complete human being."

Kevin will also be struggling with his own feelings about fatherhood and the impact this change will have on his relationship with his partner. "Being gay, I never thought I would be a father. It's going to take some major changes in my socialization to make it work. The whole idea of giving a woman some of my body fluid to make a baby is weird. I know my mother is happy about becoming a grandmother, but she isn't comfortable about it because the circumstances aren't the usual ones." As he changes, he hopes that his partner will be able to make the necessary adjustments in their relationship.

Ware feels he is in a good place



Shannon Mitchell and Kevin Ware in ODC's *Dancing Downtown '98*

to be making major shifts in his life. "I have a lot of things I'm interested in doing. When you're dancing professionally, there just isn't even time to spend with your friends. I already play tennis, but I'd like to take some lessons and get better. That's the dancer in me, always striving to do the best I can. I've also been spending a lot of time teaching myself about making Web pages. It's so fascinating. I get so involved figuring how to do different things that hours fly by. Probably I should take classes to learn more about

that, and maybe it could develop into a career. I also want to keep choreographing."

Although at the moment he isn't planning on performing, he knows that ODC has a history of calling on former company members to fill in at the last moment for injured dancers, so he could well find himself on stage again in the near future. With so many prospects and fatherhood right around the corner, he isn't worried about finding enough to do after retirement.

"You know, nature abhors a vacuum." ▼

ODC/San Francisco performs *Dancing Downtown '98* through June 14 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard. Call for times and tickets: 978-ARTS.

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San Francisco Opera Dumdum 'Lulu'

by Paul Thomason

The San Francisco Opera opened its summer "Femmes Fatales" season last Saturday night at the War Memorial Opera House with a sketch from *The Carol Burnett Show* masquerading as Alban Berg's *Lulu*.

Based on the same two plays by Frank Wedekind that were made into G.W. Pabst's 1928 film *Pandora's Box*, *Lulu* should be a devastating evening in the opera house that leaves an audience totally drained by the utter amorality of its protagonist and its consequences for everyone. Of Louise Brooks' performance in *Pandora's Box*, Pauline Kael wrote, "[Her sexuality is] preconscious yet intuitively all-knowing. She's like a cool, beautiful, innocently deadly cat that people can't keep their hands off." Unfortunately, what

the San Francisco Opera provided in the person of Eilana Lappalainen was a Lulu who was a cross between a Betty Boop cartoon and a Las Vegas runway model for tacky clothes by Bob Mackie. That the management of the San Francisco Opera apparently is unable to tell the difference between a cheap bimbo and the true representation of an archetype is one of the reasons this once-great company has become mired in the depths of provincialism.

To give Lappalainen her due, the role of Lulu is probably impossible to perform as Berg wrote it. It calls for numerous high Cs and Ds, superb coloratura, and power throughout the voice. Lotfi Mansouri's production also asks Lulu to sing parts of the opera lying on a chaise longue with her back to the audience, making it even more difficult to hear her.

In fact, for much of the evening

it was difficult to hear most of the singers more clearly than as a generalized mumble. Whether that was because my seat was under the overhang, or because the set by Günther Schneider-Siemssen was so open the voices disappeared, or because the orchestra was playing just slightly too loudly, I do not know. But aside from a couple of loud, firm notes at the very top of Lappalainen's voice which were impressive, her rather colorless voice was marred by a frequent wobble. Even more damning was her rapid portrayal of Lulu, which was so clueless one wondered how anyone could bear to be in her presence for more than 10 minutes. One kept expecting her to break into babytalk. And without a Lulu, there is no reason to do *Lulu*.

Time after time, the evening misfired. Though the opera is filled with humor, it is an ironic wit that should leave the audience feeling stabbed, not as though it had been genially set up for a beer commercial. Saturday night, when Lulu reminded Alwa that they were screwing on the very couch where his father had bled to death, the audience chortled merrily. In Berg's opera, Lulu is killed off-stage. In Mansouri's production, she is repeatedly stabbed in full view of the audience. In Berg's opera, Lulu wipes her husband's blood from Dr. Schön's hand with a handkerchief. In Mansouri's production, she gets on her knees and licks off the blood. But then, what does the composer/librettist know?

Lesbian lover

The one part of the evening that was great drama was the short scene in Act III where Lulu's would-be lesbian lover, Countess Geschwitz, contemplates committing suicide. Singing the role for the first time, Frederica von Stade was superb, a vivid, too-brief example of what Berg's opera



Soprano Eilana Lappalainen as Lulu

should be.

In his U.S. opera debut, Australian tenor Christopher Lincoln was quite good as Alwa. He has an attractive, clear voice, and I look forward to hearing him in other roles. Though Kristine Jepson, like many of the actors, played several roles, she was outstanding as The Schoolboy, a solid presence, both vocally and dramatically. Franz Mazura was undertaking the role of Schigolch for the first time, rather than his usual role, Dr. Schön. Mazura shuffled about agreeably and seemed to be having a wonderful time portraying an enigmatic old roué, but few of his words reached Row T. This same difficulty in hearing the singers severely undercut the authority of Tom Fox's Dr. Schön. I have often admired Fox for his superb melding of words, music, and emotion into riveting operatic

characters, but it was only as Jack the Ripper at the end of the opera that he seemed in his usual form.

As The Acrobat, David Okerlund was appropriately a blustering bully-boy, and Dennis Petersen's Marquis was delightfully smarmy. I have greatly enjoyed tenor Robert Gambill in other theaters, and regretted being unable to hear him in his SF Opera debut as The Painter and A Black Man.

Also making his debut was conductor Stefan Lano, who received a warm response from the singers when he walked on stage for his curtain call. ▼

Lulu plays the War Memorial Opera House through June 28. Call 864-3330 for times and tickets.

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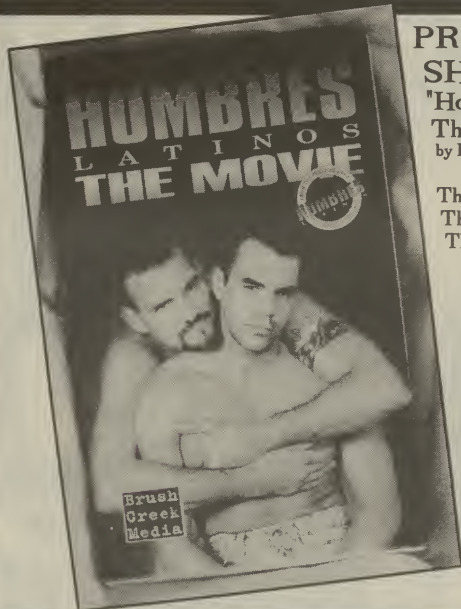
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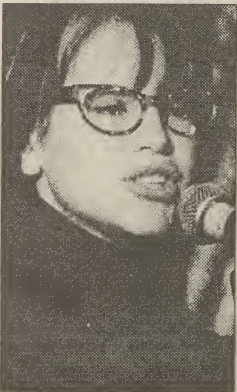
MUSIC

Three female singer/songwriters New firecracker stuff

by Gregg Shapiro

New (and relatively new) female singer/songwriters are continuing to make substantial waves in the music industry this year. Natalie Imbruglia is a perfect example (if only her album was that perfect). *Firecracker* (Geffen) by Lisa Loeb, *New Blood* (Roadrunner) by Beth Wood, and *Stuff* (Universal) by Holly McNarland are albums that re-define everything we thought we knew about female singer/songwriters in the late 1990s.

My opinion of Lisa Loeb has changed over the last few years. I was one of those people who was deeply affected by her song "Stay" (from the movie *Reality Bites*). I was caught up in the song's emotional power, and Loeb's vocals were a big part of that. However,



Lisa Loeb

when I saw her perform live at '97 Lilith Fair, I was very disappointed. She didn't have much stage presence, and the expression on her face communicated an "I don't really want to be here" attitude. There was a noticeable change in her persona when I saw her open for Sarah McLachlan a few months later.

That change can also be heard, right from the start, on her new album *Firecracker*. The opening track (and first single) "I Do" is one of the smartest and catchiest pop songs you are likely to hear. "Falling In Love" (which sounds like a Shawn Colvin song) ranks up there with "Stay" in impact (and even features Ms. Colvin on harmony vocals), and "Truthfully" shows Loeb honing her skills as a pop songwriter. Other explosive moments occur on "Let's Forget About It," "Wishing Heart," "Furious Rose," and "Split Second."

If your tastes run toward the rougher, harder edges of female singers/songwriters, then recent Juno Award (Canadian version of the Grammy)-winner in the Best New Solo Artist category Holly McNarland might be more to your liking. *Stuff*, which closely followed the release of McNarland's *Sour Pie* EP, is a smarter, less "ironic" variant on the Alanis Morissette thing. McNarland can talk trash ("Elmo," "Porno Mouth," "Just In Me") with as much grace as she talks like an adult ("Water," "Numb," "I Won't Stay"), which sets her apart from some of her contemporaries.

Although Beth Wood leans a little to the blues side of things, she is stationed firmly between Loeb and McNarland. On uptem-



Holly McNarland

po tracks such as "Rip It Up," "String Of Bad Luck," "Deliciously," more mid-tempo songs such as the title track and "Dangerous Kiss," and ballads such as "All Yours" and "Snowbird." Wood cuts her own path. She even does a jazz-influenced song ("You And Blue"), and it's the variety on *New Blood* that keeps it interesting and earns it repeated plays. ▼

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Diva at the fair



Filipina-American dance club diva Jocelyn Enriquez is one of the featured artists at the Fiesta Filipina, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Philippine Islands' independence from Spain. The festival, to include Pete Escovedo and Jorge Santana, will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. in SF's Civic Center Plaza. Admission at the gate is \$5. ▼

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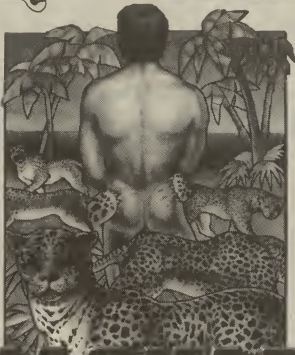
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Jack Spicer biography

Prodigy gone wrong

by Dan Blue

Poet Be Like God: Jack Spicer and the San Francisco Renaissance by Lewis Ellingham and Kevin Killian; Wesleyan University Press, \$35

Sometimes through sheer force of personality, a writer can make the wreck of his life seem a grand and enviable adventure. On the surface, the biography of local gay poet Jack Spicer was a downhill slide. In *Poet Be Like God: Jack Spicer and the San Francisco Renaissance*, Lew Ellingham and Kevin Killian depict a painful youth, years of social maladjustment, and death at forty from drink and disillusionment. Yet Jack Spicer was nobody's victim. He saw reality from such a fresh angle and lived with such spirit that it's hard not to applaud even as we watch him crash and burn.

Like any tragic hero, Spicer was both talented and sympathetic. A gifted linguist, he had such a fine ear that he could peg a speaker's birthplace after a few minutes' conversation. He also took a winning joy in popular America. He adored baseball, wore out many a pinball machine, hosted a faux-country radio program, and was probably the only gay poet ever to coach a football team to victory.

His own work was refreshingly unpretentious. "Pure poetry bores everybody. It is even a bore to the poet," he wrote, adding, "There is more of Orpheus in Sophie Tucker than in R.P. Blackmur." Spicer kept his poems homespun and was wont to recite wearing a baseball cap while Johnny Horton played in the background.

He was also, as Ellingham and Killian ominously observe, a "prodigy gone wrong." A subterranean creature who preferred to live in basements, Spicer found even second-story rooms "profoundly unsettling." So dirty that when he took a dip in the ocean he emerged "two shades lighter,"



Jack Spicer

he used the open carriage of his typewriter as an ashtray, filling it with butts and ashes.

Spicer considered being a slob a sign of purity. It proved that he had not sold out, that he lived exclusively to write poems. In opposition to romantics who conceived of poetry as self-expression, he compared the process to a radio transmission. The poet did not so much produce poems as pick up signals and relay them to the world at large. Further, since the poem belonged to no-one, Spicer refused to copyright most of his books and blocked their distribution. He was always afraid of compromising poetry by using it to further a career, and his efforts to avoid this could verge on self-destruction.

Homeliest man

Spicer possibly neglected his life because he found it disappointing. When he arrived at UC Berkeley in the mid-forties to study, he was pale and bent from a calcium deficiency. One acquaintance remembered him as "undoubtedly the homeliest man on the Berkeley campus." This, together with concerns over penis size, made him a sexual failure in the local gay world and inhibited him for the rest of his days.

An academic career was unthinkable for openly gay men dur-

ing that era. When Spicer further refused to sign a loyalty oath, he was for a time barred from the California university system. In 1957, after trips to the Midwest and East and a stint doing work for the Mattachine Society, he returned to San Francisco and set up a parallel academy in the North Beach bars. He also began to write poems of a new kind — austere and perfectly pitched in tone, flip-sides to the messy squalor of his life. Whole series of these "dictated" poems arrived over the next nine years. When he was injured in an auto accident and lost his job, Spicer's drinking speeded up, and he died in 1965.

Because he burned so many bridges, posthumous fame came slowly. Eventually American and French poets acknowledged Spicer as a master, and a French techno-rock group made an opera out of *Billy the Kid*, his "gayest" poem. All his poetic work is now readily available, and anyone who wants to get a sense of the man need only pick up his *Collected Books*.

Nonetheless, we need a biography to fill in the gritty details. Ellingham and Killian gladly oblige and have interviewed dozens of Spicer's acquaintances. After amassing this invaluable archive, apparently without help from grants or academia, the two constructed a broad-ranging and at times finely written book. They are alive to the politics of both the national and Bay Area poetry scenes and chronicle Spicer's touchy relationships with such luminaries as Allen Ginsberg, Charles Olson, and Robert Duncan.

Above all, they capture an epoch in history when poetry mattered and lives were staked on its production. Spicer's caprices would make any biography an entertaining read, but Ellingham and Killian also suggest the rich ambience of his world — the high vision, low life, and the exuberance which transformed much wretched sordidness into a whopping good time. ▼

DANCE

Shake a leg



Thirty Northern California dance companies and soloists from many cultural traditions will perform at the 20th annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival at the Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon, June 12 through 28. Dances include California Indian Shakehead, the Afro-Cuban Abakua spirit dance, Yucatan and Huastecan Folklorico, and Celtic step dance. Tickets are \$15-25. Call 392-4400. ▼

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Queen bimbo

by Deborah Peifer

The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn
by Robin Maxwell; Scribner, \$11

It may be unfair for me to review Robin Maxwell's execrable, cheesy, and generally awful attempt at historical fiction because I actually know something about Tudor England, unlike Maxwell, who apparently felt that reading the fiction of Jackie Collins was sufficient preparation for the writing of an historical novel. This book fails for so many reasons, but I'll just share some of the most egregious, owing to space constraints which make it impossible to name them all.

Let's start with Queen Elizabeth — Good Queen Bess, Gloriana — she gave her name to the greatest flowering of theatrical art in human history. Faced with bloody religious schisms that had plunged Europe and England into bloody wars, she refused to allow her country to persecute anyone over religious differences, saying, "There is one Lord Jesus Christ. All the rest is arguing over trivialities." Quite a statement from a woman who was nearly executed by her Catholic half-sister, Mary.

Elizabeth was also called The Virgin Queen. I'll repeat, The Virgin Queen. You might think that a woman who claimed publicly to be a virgin, whose every moment was public and so could not possibly have had a secret assignation, whose great announced goal was to die a virgin, would, in fact, have been a virgin. Apparently not, however, because Maxwell has Elizabeth naked by page four and fucking by page eight.

Elizabeth was the daughter of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. It was Henry's wish to marry Anne that led to the great matter of his divorce from Katherine of Aragon and the creation of the English Church. When Anne failed to produce a male heir, Henry had Anne convicted of fucking various courtiers (treason, don't you know, for the queen to lie with any but the king), and beheaded. The three-year-old Elizabeth was declared a bastard. Over the next 22 years, she would see women raised up and later cast down because they married. She would see women die in childbirth, see those who survived pregnancy after pregnancy become old long before their time. You would think that a woman who had seen that would hesitate to marry any man, and thereby submit to a man's authority, especially when that woman was a queen who was in charge of everything. You might also think that, in the absence of any form of contraception, casual sex was dangerous for any

woman, something Elizabeth would surely have known.

You might think so, but not Robin Maxwell, the Jacqueline Susann of Tudor England. Her Elizabeth is a veritable fucking machine, and her fuckee of choice is a commoner, Robert Dudley. It seems Maxwell took the canards about Elizabeth spread by her enemies to heart and has based her novel on those grotesque rumors. But will Elizabeth continue her fucking ways, destroying her reputation, her health, her country? Of course not — even Maxwell can't go that far. The conceit of this woful piece of trash is that Anne Boleyn kept a diary, a secret diary, of course, because had anyone known of it, it would have been destroyed after Anne's death. But no, one beautiful fucking day, and at this point all of the Virgin's are fucking days, an old lady-in-waiting arrives at Elizabeth's court with the diary, one which Anne managed to keep even while she was held in the Tower (annoyingly referred to as the Tower of London throughout — does Maxwell really think that there was a Sussex Tower with which we might otherwise confuse the reference?). When Elizabeth reads Anne's diary, she suddenly becomes aware of the dangers of marriage and childbirth, having been kept in a cave until that moment, I presume, for how could she be unaware of these facts? She vows to be a really good queen, quit fucking, and make her dead mother proud.

Oh, please.

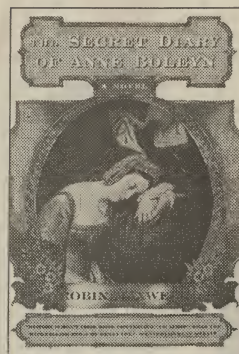
Dear diary

The problem with the epistolary form is that the author must include far more detail than a real diarist would. A good writer recognizes the difficulty and makes some reference in the text to the amount of detail. Not Maxwell, a person for whom the term novelist is an acute misnomer. She just fills Anne's diary with lengthy dialogues, pages of description, and events which Anne herself did not witness. Hmm. My favorite awkward entry: "What happened is, *unknown to us* [emphasis added], the French were sore defeated. ... All of this we did not hear." Then how did she know to write it, eh?

Anne is clearly Elizabeth's mother. Her diary is replete with references to sexual acts, sexual parts, and sexual stuff. On the fifth page of the diary, Anne refers to a statue "of a naked god upon a pedestal. I gazed upon his stony sheath of maleness." She knows Henry is well-endowed, even before they start fucking, because she can feel his "rod of hardness." Myself, I could feel my stomach of nausea.

I've always thought that what made historical fiction interesting

was an emphasis on the historically accurate. I realize that there must be some created bits — this is fiction, after all — but then the rest of the history should be correct. Maxwell is wrong many times, not merely when she portrays attitudes which are remarkably similar to those of the 20th-century, but also in easily checked facts. She alludes to the death of Henry VII, "and soon thereafter Arthur [Henry VIII's older brother] died, too." Of course, had Henry VII died before Arthur, Arthur would have become King Arthur. That didn't happen be-



cause Arthur died seven years before his father.

The Secret Diary of Anne Bo-

leyn is a boring, trite, sleazy disservice to anyone with an interest in good fiction, or history. The writing is lurid and pedestrian, not an easy combination, but Maxwell manages to achieve both in a deadly prose style that recalls the pulp magazines of the 1950s. Maxwell takes one of the greatest figures of history, Elizabeth I, and reduces her to a bimbo. She should be ashamed of herself. The real horror is the threat contained in the bio printed on the back cover, which states that Maxwell "is currently at work on a sequel." Oh God, no. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Terrance Boykin



Scott Silverman

Laugh stands

He's back! Scott Silverman started his stand-up career seven years ago as the open mike emcee at Josie's Cabaret. Having *Escaped From West Hollywood*, he's returned to charm Josie's audiences every Monday in June for open mike night. On June 12 and 19, he hits the stage along with the blond, blue-eyed lesbian bombshell Cindi Ellen Hagley. Silverman brings a new angle to the comedy stage: a positive reflection of being gay with crazy anecdotes about his sometimes overly supportive queer activist family. Performing across North America and Australia, Silverman's "out-antics" include: television's Evening at the Improv, Out For Laughs, Girl's Night Out, and Out There II. Silverman is unapologetically "out" on everything from being Jewish to being a queer, car-crazed Californian. Opening for Silverman is the warm, wonderful and witty comedy girl, Cindi Hagley. Another maestro of "out" comedy, Hagley brings her unique, fun and comfortable hilarity to the stage. The Northern California whirlwind tour doesn't stop there. At DJ's Bar in Walnut Creek on June 14 at 8pm, Silverman will be headlining at The Sunday Funnies: Stand-up Comedy Show. The Funnies is a once-a-month showcase, featuring comedians, improvisers, and raw storytellers from all over the queer universe. 100% of the proceeds from the Sunday Funnies will go to support The Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County. ▼

Scott Silverman in *Escaped From West Hollywood*, June 12 and 19 at Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. For more information, call 861-7933.

Fri 12

The Ballad Sopranos
The Kinsey Sicks perform their unique and fabulous dragapella beautyshop quartet. \$16-\$20. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/26. New Conservatory Theater Center, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Black Brothers Esteem

"The Sweeter The Juice" an evening of cabaret and dance with Shade, Andre Morgan, Allegra Brandy and others. Free. 8pm. Center for African & African American Art & Culture, 762 Fulton. 487-8018.

Bottoms Up!

The LAB presents eleven artists, who examine sex from a sex-positive position that welcomes new beauty ideals and sexual configurations. Free. Wed.-Saturday. 12pm-5pm; thru 7/3. The Lab, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Dancing Downtown

ODC Theatre and Artistic Director, Brenda Way present an eclectic series of dance performances. \$9-\$28. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 6/14. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard St. 987-2787.

Disputed Territory

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project presents "Disputed Territory: Sexploitation." \$10-\$15. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/26. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St, Suite 216C. 863-2989.

En Drag

Female Impersonation Revue with the incomparable Sexilya Luvseat & Co. \$10. Every Friday at 9pm, 10pm, 11:30pm. Kimo's Showroom, 1351 Polk Street. 885-4535.

Enter, then Pause

Michael Goldfried's hilarious bi-coastal comedy explores the odyssey of a young man in the '90s. Directed by Jeffrey Friedman. \$8-\$12. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm; thru 6/27. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

Ethnic Dance Festival

30 Northern California dance companies and soloists from a variety of cultural traditions. \$15-\$25. Fri. at 8pm. Sat. at 2pm and 8pm. Sun. at 2pm; thru 6/28. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. 392-4400.

Exit The King

Eugene Ionesco's hilarious and tragic play. \$8-\$12. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 7/28. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy St. 673-3847.

Full Frontal Nursing

Candy Campbell brings together an array of hilarious characters. \$8-\$12. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/14. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. 289-2000.

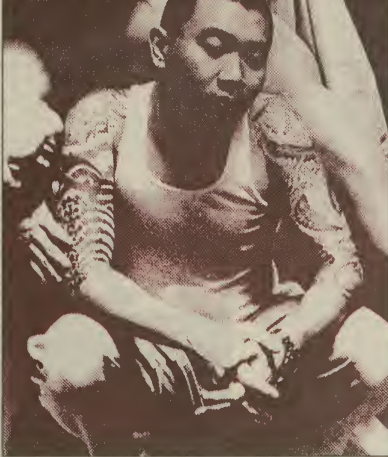
Girl Jocks

A heavyweight evening of entertainment to benefit female athletes attending Gay Games Amsterdam, with music by Page Hodel, Chili D and others. \$8. 8pm. Club Townsend, 177 Townsend St. 974-6020.

Jazz & Pop!

The Pacific Mozart Ensemble's annual "A cappella Jazz & Pop" concert. \$12-\$18. 7:30pm. Green Room, Veterans Bldg, 401 Van Ness Ave.

Justin Chin and Hung Nguyen in "Cockfight" at the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. See Thursday.



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Last Sunday in June

Actor Leon Acord writes and performs his solo stage-play filled with hilarious comedy and drama. \$15. Fri.-Sat. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 7:30pm; thru 6/27. Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Latin Hustle

A queer, Latin comedy performance with Jaime Cortez, Lito Sandoval, and Al Lujan. \$10-\$15. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/13. Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 552-7709.

Night of the Iguana

Actors Theatre of San Francisco revives Tennessee Williams' steamy, psychological drama. \$10-\$18. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. and Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/26. Actors Theatre of San Francisco, 533 Sutter St. 296-9179.

One of the Boys

"Stories from the Midwest," solo work by John McGivern. \$15+\$2 drink min. Fridays at 10:30pm; thru 7/31. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 931-9707.

Palpitations

Keith Hennessy's portrait of a gay heart in love, loss, and liberty. \$16-\$20. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/13. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Up Jumped Springtime

AFROBLUESOULPOWER

presents a coming of age play about being gay and African American. Adapted by Colman Domingo from *Brother to Brother*. \$12-\$21. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/20. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Women's Dance

Lesbian partner dancing event to the sounds of Swing, Country Western, and Salsa. Sponsored by Gerri Shapiro. \$10-\$15. Every Friday. Lessons at 7:30pm. Dancing at 8:45. Masonic Hall, 3903 Broadway/40th St. Oakland. 510-428-2144.

Sat 13

Baker Beach

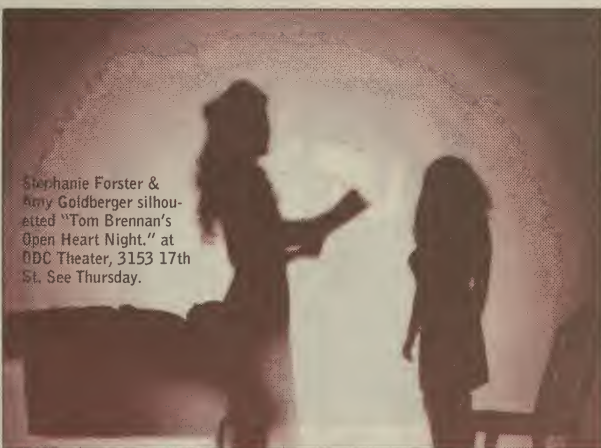
"Rainbow Open Reading" music, poets, jugglers, poets, and painters celebrate queer freedom. Free. 12 noon. Baker Beach.

Buccon Gallery

Bay Area visual artists, Collette Calascione, Lisa Clague, and Jeffrey Dugan display their works. Free; thru 7/1. Buccon Gallery, 540 Hayes Street. 863-2891.

Dolores Park Cafe

Tala Brandeis Photography presents a benefit for The Harvey Milk Institute through a photo exhibition called "Frank's Transformation." Free; thru 6/30. Dolores Park Cafe, 501 Dolores St. 584-



Stephanie Forster & Amy Goldberger silhouetted "Tom Brennan's Open Heart Night." at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. See Thursday.

3530.

File's Bunkhouse

FAB presents "Lumberjack Dance Party." Free. 9:30pm. File's Bunkhouse, Russian River. 707-869-0656.

Historical Society

"Lyon/Martin papers: A Collection in Process," an exhibit and celebration of activism from the 1950s to present. Free. 12 noon. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market St. 4th Fl. 647-3549.

Kinky Carnival

Find kinky treasures and pleasures, featuring the city's best leather crafts-people and artists. \$5. 1pm. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St.

Magicians Laboratory

Magician Daniel Alistair hosts a night of illusions with guest James Hamilton. \$5. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Men Meet Men

Personal connections among adult gay and bi men of all ages in a fun environment. \$20. 7:30pm. Mitchell Park Comm. Center, 3800 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto. 650-965-3290.

Midnight Mass

The wild and crazy "Peaches Christ" presents "The Big Doll House." Costumes and audience participation strongly encouraged. \$5. Every Sat. at Midnight. Landmark's Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary Blvd. 751-3213

Performing Arts Show

8th Annual show for Latino/a GLBT artists. \$7-\$15. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/14. MCCLA, 2868 Mission St. 648-3702.

Playwrights Festival

Bay Area Playwrights Festival hosts 2nd annual "Take A Hike," a 10 Km nature walk-a-thon. 10:30am. Ferry Bldg. at Main Street. Tiburon. 282-7252.

Russian River Comedy Night

Momi Starr on piano. Scott Capurro with Open Mic. Free. 9pm. Russian River Resort, Fourth & Mill St., Guerneville. 707-869-0691.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Dan Rothenberg, Sarah West, and Amma. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Wine Ride

Sonoma County's AIDS Foundation's second Wine Ride for AIDS. A 100K bike ride through Alexander Valley. 8am. Cloverdale High School, 509 North Cloverdale Blvd. Cloverdale. 707-544-1215.

Zare Cafe

Josee Andrei, a blind painter's work of lush landscapes infused with mystical qualities. Free; thru 8/15. Zare Cafe, 1640 Haight St. 861-8868.

Sun 14

Bamboleo

Havana's sensational Afro-Cuban Dance band kicks off the 61st Stern Grove Festival, featuring Rebeca Mauleon & Round Trip, and Orestes Villato. Free. 2pm. Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th & Sloat Blvd. 252-6252.

A Different Light

Author Lucy Jane Bledsoe discusses "Gay Travel: A Literary Companion," a collection of queer travel tales that include such renowned writers such as James Baldwin (on Paris) and Adam Klein (India). Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore. 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Gay Asian Alliance

The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance sponsors "The Ins & Outs of Safer Sex," an interactive safer sex workshop. Free. 6pm. MCC, 150 Eureka at 18th. 282-GAPA.

Learning Annex

Dating 101 for gay men and lesbians with President of Quality Partners Maura Rothman and Trish McDermott. \$24-\$39. 4:30pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 788-5500.

Lesbian & Gay Comedy

"The Sunday Funnies" a stand-up comedy showcase featuring Scott Silverman. \$3. 8pm. DJ's Bar, 1535 Olympic Blvd, Walnut Creek. 925-930-0300.

PFLAG

Boy Scout Steven Cozza speaks to Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Free. 2pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

Queer Education

"Shattering the Classroom Closet: Queers in Schools," a discussion with Bay Area teachers and students. Free. 4pm. New College of California, 766 Valencia St. 431-3594.

San Jose Pride

GLBT Pride Parade with music, artists, and food with Ru Paul, Sister Sledge and Evelyn Chagnagne King. 10am. Discovery Meadows. San Carlos & Almaden. Downtown San Jose. 408-338-7099.

Mon 15

Brown BoyZ

Projecto ContraSIDA Por Vida sponsors a drop in space with food, games, and movies for gay and bi Latinos under 25. Free. Every Monday at 6:30pm. PCPV, 2973 16th. 864-7278.

Dyke March

Committee meeting for Dyke March 98. 7pm. SF Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. 241-8882.

Gay Men's Yoga

Sadhana Brothers hold their monthly meeting of chanting, meditation and socializing. 7pm. 647-4388.

GenderAsian X

IH Kuniyuki and Christopher Lee present a TRANSGenre photo series documenting the compelling transitions of sexual reassignment. Free; thru 6/30. The Chat House, 139 8th St. at Minna. 776-9624.

Josie's Cabaret

Gay comedy open mic with June MC; Scott Silverman hosting two hours of raw, up and coming talent. \$5. Every Monday. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.



Footloose Fundraisers at Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. See Thursday.

Leather Photo Exhibit
SF Leather Photo Exhibit and auction at the Eagle, Brig, Castro Station, and My Place featuring the work of Bill Bowers. 6/15 thru 6/30. Daddy's Bar, 440 Castro. 621-8732.

Monday Night Movie
Free movie screening of "Costa Brava." Every Monday. 7pm. The Chat House, 139 8th Street. 255-8783.

Tues 16

A Different Light
Author Doug Guinan discusses his book "California Screaming," a funny look at thriving gay subcultures in Los Angeles, from the bedrooms of Hollywood's "Valvet Mafia" to the West Hollywood celebrity wannabes. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore. 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Lesbian Visual Arts
LVA: Lesbians in the Visual Arts sponsors an interactive salon, "In Your Face." \$5-\$25. 7pm. Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 788-6118.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile
Steven Martin's award-winning comedy, where a youthful Einstein and Picasso lock wits. \$25-\$40. Tue.-Sun. Call for times; thru 7/26. Theatre On The Square, 450 Post St. 433-9500.

Wed 17

The Ballad of Little Mickey
A campy in-your-face musical

by Mark Savage about coming out, tea rooms, romance and gay activism. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 7/18. The New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Burning Blue
London's hit play written by former Navy flier D.M.W. Greer. A story about four U.S. Navy fliers whose intense friendship is the subject of a homosexual witchhunt. \$25-\$30. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm, and 7pm; thru 7/5. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St.

Dames At Sea
A 1930s Hollywood style parody featuring sailors and sailorettes singing snappy songs and tapping to tender tunes. \$25-\$44. Wed.-Mon. Call for times. Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St. 2nd floor. 771-6900.

A Different Light
Paula Martinac discusses her book "Lesbian and Gay book of Love and Marriage," a rich, inspirational brass-tactics approach to problem solving in queer relationships. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore. 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Lesbian Erotica
Celebrating sexy, literate queer writing, "Best Lesbian Erotica" features the steamiest sexual writing of the year. Free. 7:30pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, 282-9246.

A Question of Mercy
West Coast premiere of David Rabe's stunning and timely drama. Author of "Hurly Burly" and "Streamers." \$15-\$26. Wed.-Sat. 8:30pm; thru 6/28. Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D. 441-3687.

Thur 18

Bent
Martin Sherman's Broadway play. \$8-\$10. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/12. Adeline Street Theatre, 3280 Adeline. Berkeley. 510-655-0813.

Breaking the Silence
SF Public Library screens. "Kiev Blue" 28 min. film about nine gay men and lesbians in Kiev, Russia. Free. 12 noon. Main Library, Civic Center, 557-4525.

Cockfight
Written and performed by Justin Chin and Hung Nguyen, "Cockfight" is a dual of words, images and subconscious. \$16. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/20. The New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Deeply There
Joe Goode Performance Group presents "Deeply There (Stories of a Neighborhood)," a humorous, musical story about urban AIDS culture and strong community. \$12-\$22. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; Thru 6/21. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St. 648-4848.

Enrique
Performs new rock musical *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*: a romp thru the seamy side of the rock music business. \$10. 9pm Thur; extended thru 6/25. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

Film Festival
22nd International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. \$5-\$7.50; 6/18 thru 6/28. Castro Theatre, Victoria Theater and Roxie Theater. 863-9802.

Footloose Fundraisers
Footloose celebrates 2 years at Venue 9 with a weekend of benefit performances featuring "Hey You Theater," "Ta Lam 10," and emcee Scott Malone and others. \$10 and up. Thur.-Sun. at 7:30pm; thru 6/21. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. 289-2000.

Gone With The Wind
Project Open Hand benefits from this special screening and re-opening celebration. \$25. 6pm. United Artists Metro Theater, 2055 Union St. 447-2444. Ext 225.

Kathleena Gorga
Ms. Gorga blends NY style with Parisian glamour in her SF cabaret debut. 9pm. Piaf's Restaurant and Cabaret, 1686 Market St. 864-3700.

Open Heart Night
An evening of video poetry, live performances, and theatre installations, featuring Tom Brennan, Paul Benny, Karry Fefer's and others. \$12-\$15. Thur.-Sun. 8:30pm; thru 6/21. ODC Theatre, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Queer Arts Festival
Opening Reception for FACE: queer expression through self portraiture. \$3-\$5. Tue.-Sat at 11am-4pm; thru 6/27. Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 552-7709.

San Francisco Partnership
A workshop on "Launching the New Venture: Business Plan and Formation Issues." \$35. 8:30am. Merchants Exchange Bldg. 465 California St. 12th Fl. 512-3556.

Show Biz'ness
A modern jazz-swing musical featuring original songs by J.C. Hopkins and dialogue by Mission District poet Pete Simonelli. \$10. 7pm. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St. 979-6545.

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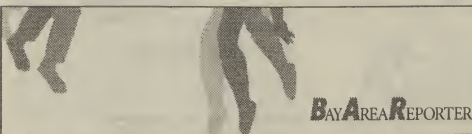
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Out There

◀ page 38

ico presented himself as gay throughout the entire audition and casting process, then revealed himself as determinedly straight once his contract was signed. Army was mightily pissed and swore to replace him in any and all further installments. And you know, his career has shown few signs of intelligent life since.



Justin Bond

Postcard from the tropics

Our spy on Fire Island reports: "Who did I see getting off the ferry at Cherry Grove on Memorial Day weekend but **Justin Bond**, looking fabulous with his hair in a big ponytail, carrying a pineapple, and greeting folks with a hearty, 'Aloha!'"

Sounds like the Big Ripple has been berry, berry good to Bond, who is also featured in the June ish of *Interview* mag. But haven't the standards for cover material at *Interview* fallen just a tiny bit? If **Andy** could see the bright new hope of country music emblazoned on the current cover, he'd die all over again.

On the street

There we were with our sweetie **Thing**, striding north on Van Ness,

when out of the unfortunately-named War Memorial Building popped **Mayor Willie Brown** at the end of a long day at the (temporary City Hall) office, we guess, and just a few discreet hops from the Town Car, idling purringly around the corner of McAllister.

"Good evening, Mr. Brown!" piped up a passing citizen.

W.B. eveninged back. He was looking dapper in a tailored suit, but wasn't even wearing a hat. In two shakes of a supervisor's tail, he was behind tinted glass.

"Damn!" said Thing. "I was going to shout, 'Don't forget the poor people!'"

It was a good thing he didn't, we assured Thing. He would have just ended up as more fodder for some ridiculous items column.

A little night music

We can't help it, we're soundtrack queens, especially when there's that film festival stink in the air. A spate of new CDs featuring classic film scores has us lost in some sort of celluloid reverie, and we're on deadline!

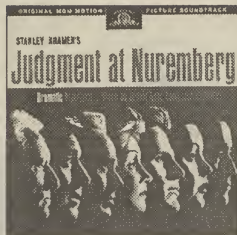


The music **Gato Barbieri** composed for *Last Tango in Paris* (Rykodisc) makes us think we're having a tawdry affair in a third-rate hotel in gay Paree. We will never think of **Marlon Brando** and a stick of butter in the same way again. But we learned from **John Bender**'s liner notes that director **Bernardo Bertolucci** originally conceived of *Last Tango* as "a starring vehicle for **Jean-Louis Trintignant** and another male actor, as the film was to focus on a homosexual relationship." We see it as the classic triangle: Jean-Louis, **Alain Delon**, and a stick of butter.

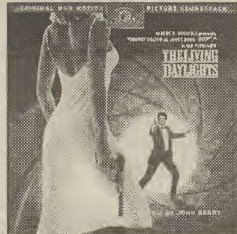


The soundtrack for the 1960 film *Never on Sunday* includes the title song, a Top 40 hit in its time, sung by actress **Melina Mercouri**, and a full plate of Greek-active music by composer **Manos Hadjidakis**. Director **Jules Dassin**'s foreign romance follows the charms of Mercouri as "siren-like prostitute" Ilya: woe to the men caught in her spell. As critic **Jeff Bond** writes in his liner notes, "Rarely had an audience of the period been treated to the word 'whore' so often, and so casually." Ilya is the type of upbeat gal who's convinced herself that the Greek tragedies have happy endings ("Medea did not kill the children! There they are on the stage!").

Ernest Gold's score for **Stanley Kramer**'s 1961 drama *Judgment at Nuremberg* is, as you can imagine, no walk in the park: lots of bellicose trumpets and German folk tunes. Let's face it, the 20th Century was not cozy. The luxe package of this CD, however, in-



cludes sumptuous photos of **July Garland** laughing it up with a bearded **Montgomery Clift** at the film's premiere, and Ms. Garland checking her makeup. It's enough to make you an Orthodox Jew.

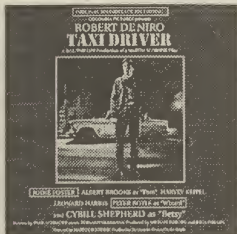


1987's *The Living Daylights* boasted **John Barry**'s eleventh score for the **James Bond** series, as well as beefcake **Timothy Dalton**'s first (and last) appearance as 007. The big surprise on this CD is the ballad "If There Was A Man," sung by **Chrissie Hynde** of The Pretenders. We forgot Chrissie is a Bond girl.

These MGM motion picture soundtrack packages come with the films' trailers on CD-ROM, color stills, and gossip production notes. Note to Bender's editor at *Film Score Monthly*: Brando plays a brooding American expatriate, not "expatriot."



Arista Masters' reissues of **Barbra Streisand** in the 1975 *Funny Lady* and **Bernard Herrmann**'s score for 1976 *Taxi Driver* have been resequenced to reflect the order the music came in the film. The continuing story of **Fanny Brice** (sequel to the 1968 *Funny Girl*) includes several **Billy Rose** standards, Babs doing "How Lucky Can You Get," and her rendition of "Blind Date," a comic situation familiar to the singles set: "I got a blind date, vat am I going to do? ... Vat'll come walking through that door? A man I never saw in my life before!"



Taxi Driver was Herrmann's last score (after *Psycho*, *Vertigo*, *North By Northwest*), done at the request of director **Martin Scorsese**, who adds liner notes to the reissue. It's perfect for those semi-psychotic moods one sometimes gets, the kind when one shouts at the bedroom mirror, "You talkin' to me?!" ▼

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BOOKS

Sex, love, and suffering

by Larry White

Queer Dharma, Voices of Gay Buddhists, edited by Winston Leyland; Gay Sunshine Press, \$19.95

Queer Dharma is something of a phenomenon—it's the first anthology ever that mixes the gritty experience of being gay in America with the nuances and flavors of Buddhism. It's an exciting book simply because it presents perspectives that are completely new. Our favorite themes of love and sex are at center stage, but so too are the Buddhist notions of suffering and the release from suffering. What gay man over 23 doesn't see the connection?

The anthology's title is a bit misleading. This is a gay men's book. Editor and publisher Winston Leyland explains in his introduction that his books are all "within a gay male context" and he decided to follow the same approach in this book. Some women will surely find the book worth reading, but it doesn't satisfy the need many will have for a take on Buddhism from a lesbian perspective. Still, there is so much gay men need to say and learn about Buddhism; a single book devoted to a men's perspective certainly is not excessive.

Buddhism, like all religions, reflects the values of its society. Poet John Giorno, a longtime practitioner of a Tibetan variety of Buddhism, says, 'Buddhism is homophobic, as all religions are homophobic.' But sexual relations between men in Buddhist monasteries have been tolerated.

Some of the essays and stories are historical artifacts—Japanese tales of 16th-century monkish boy-love—but most are rooted in the lives of gay men who are struggling to survive and learn how to be happy in the uncertain emotional landscape of late-1990s gay life. The larger part of the anthology is made up of essays, but there are also some short stories and poems.

Allen Ginsberg, the avatar of gay Buddhists, is well represented with a few gorgeous poems and the famous photo of a young nude Allan standing on the shores of the sea of Japan. San Francisco poet Trebor contributes some powerful poems mixing in equal parts sharp homosexual images and spiritual yearning. There are only two contemporary stories, but both are remarkable. Trebor tells the story of two damaged young men who cling to each other for a short while, penetrating each other in the spirit no less than the flesh. Erotic author Bob Vickery writes of two men fucking mindfully, breathing together as in meditation.

Active members

Queer Dharma grew out of editor Leyland's experience with San Francisco's Gay Buddhist Fellowship, and includes pieces by some of its active members. Writer and therapist Tom Moon contributes a moving account of the breakup of a fantasy relationship, as well as

an essay whose title says it all: "Obstacles to Intimacy in Gay Male Relationships: A Buddhist Perspective." Psychotherapist Mark Marion offers two essays that are sure to help gay men suffering from the loss of loved ones. Clint Seiter's article guarantees to raise hackles in more conservative Buddhist circles; it's entitled "Applying Buddhist Dharma to Casual Sex."

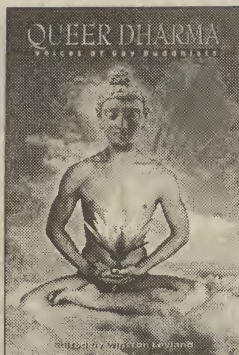
Some of the essays deal with the perennial theme of coming out, and they're a revelation to those who equate religion with a fag-bashing Jehovah. Zen practitioner James Soshin Thornton, whose teacher was Taizan Maezumi Roshi, the great Zen master who ran the Los Angeles Zen Center, writes that in coming out he was testing his teacher. "I would tell Maezumi I was gay. If he was compassionate, I would become his student. If not, I would spit in his face and walk away..."

Maezumi's first reaction to Thornton's revelation was a warning to be very careful about AIDS. As Thornton pondered about whether the master was being compassionate or homophobic, Maezumi continued, "Why don't you go back to LA and check out our city center? There is a man there I think might enjoy meeting you very much. He is about your own age."

misunderstandings like last year's flap in the gay community about the Dalai Lama's comments on homosexuality. In one interview, he said that homosexuality was "okay," but somewhere else he said that homosexual acts were "sexual misconduct" and a violation of Buddhist precepts.

Queer Dharma includes an account of a meeting between the Dalai Lama and representatives of the San Francisco gay Buddhist

community, at which His Holiness reiterated his support for "the logical and reasonable claims of gay and lesbian people for equal human rights." But the Dalai Lama is no Buddhist pope. Longtime BAR reporter Dennis Conkin, who took notes of the meeting, concluded, "We need no formal permission from any outside authority to be ourselves, a truth which the Dalai Lama himself fully acknowledges." ▼



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IML part II: The dish

by Mister Marcus

Sorry my column failed to appear last week. Health exigencies caused me to miss my 0900 Monday morning deadline. Consequently, for the second time in 27 years of writing for the B.A.R., I was not in print. However, true to my word, here's the dish from IML, the world's greatest leather contest.

First of all, know that the Congress Hotel in Chicago, which will be the IML host hotel in 1999, is almost sold out already! If you're planning to attend next May, you should make your reservations now. Otherwise, you'll be stuck in some satellite hotel, where the lobby/stairwells/tearooms will not be nearly as adventurous as they are at the Congress.

That IML 1998 was a smashing success is now legend. Delegates from around the world were there (some didn't even attend the contest activities), and it was a literal smorgasbord of delectable men all hell-bent on having a good time. The women didn't seem to be suffering in the make-out department, either! There were lipstick dykes, butch dykes, bike dykes, diesel dykes and just plain dykes — having fun with all the guys and each other.

There were all sorts of parties going on in the hotel. The Onyx Club had a dance; the Toronto crowd threw their infamous Maple Leaf Party; the M.A.F.I.A. (Mid-America Fists in Action), the Great Lakes Bears and San Francisco's "Shaking Things Up" gathering garnered close to \$4400 for the Leather Archives and Museum.

The three-tiered leather mart was swamped all weekend; all the SF vendors who had booths reported record sales, so, of course, they'll be back next year. The only problem was that some of the vendors didn't get to celebrate as much as they would have liked.

Upon arrival in San Francisco, the 17 pieces of luggage for Mister S Leather almost caused the carousel to break down! Surprisingly, one prince of *cuir* (a runner-up last year) eschewed the mart and instead dropped a very big



Tom Wang

IML '98 second runner-up Ed Ryder wrecked the audience when he strode on stage in a full-length silver fox coat during the physique competition. After casting the coat aside, Ryder did some serious posing for the judges.

bundle for a Perry Ellis ensemble!

As usual, ingenuity ruled. With so many men and so little time, cleverness was the order of the day. One guy had a rubber stamp made with his room number and was stamping restaurant napkins, bar napkins and even the toilet paper in the public lounges. He even resorted to stamping the hands of desirable tricks who looked vulnerable to his advances.

In addition, a certain former IML is still wondering who called the Housekeeper and Carpenter Shop to come to his room and install a revolving door! Windows facing other windows in the hotel labyrinth were plastered with room numbers and hints of sexual proclivities. Door knobs were festooned with various color hankies in case you got the inclination for an "interlude" on the way to your abode!

In the hotel's Gazebo dining room, some dudes rearranged the tables so they could look out on the "desperation hall." Leave it to them to redecorate the hotel! Be assured that the hallways do need new car-

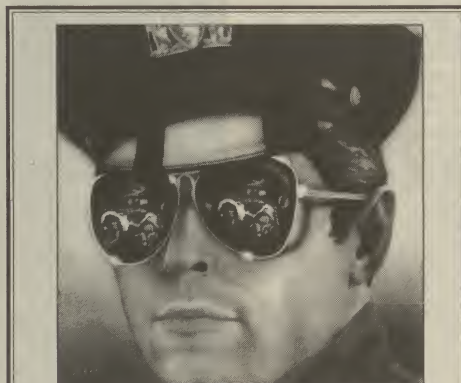
pets after this IML weekend.

There were so many yellow hankie wearers that the tearoom off the lobby turned into the Yellow River at night. The overhead lights were unscrewed, and it's doubtful if anyone ever actually faced a porcelain urinal! And what former IML was walking around the lobby with his pillow and toothbrush to keep a date with one of the contestants? His quarry had unfortunately lost the key to his own room, but happily the stairwell between the 6th and 7th floor was available!

Late night revelers made 289 calls for pizza to be delivered to the lobby and individual suites. Chicago made a bundle on this year's IML!

In the lobby, Joe Gallagher was explaining the "new math" to Mr. Capital City Leather Derek Young. He referred to chief judge Thom Dombkowski by noting that "30 can go into 47 a whole lot more than 47 could — or would even want to — go into 30." Then there was that Chicago "celebrity" who ordered a "hit" on a certain San Francisco fireman! All that preening and posturing — to no avail! Meanwhile, in the barber shop, a famed "top" had his paws manicured in anticipation of spending a weekend at Bear Hollow, a gay enclave in Austin, Texas that's the home of a former IML!

Lenny Broberg, Guy Baldwin, Jacques Hoppe of Amsterdam or Jeff Tucker? Who is the best coach for IML wannabes? The debate rages on, but gentlemen, no need



The Phoenix Uniform Club's 7th Annual Uniform & Leather Ball

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Tom Stewart

D.C.'s Andre J. Marcial of Washington recently became Mr. Ebony in Leather 1998.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 11

All 12 Bare Chest contest winners compete for the cover spot on the calendar at the Powerhouse, 2200. Don't miss this one! The pecs will be plentiful!

Weekend, June 11-14

The 15 Association's Boot Camp X at Saratoga Springs. The extravaganza costs \$270 for members/\$295 for guests and includes lodging, food, beverages, pool, jacuzzi, etc. Call 673-0452 for details.

Southeast Leatherfest in Atlanta with a vendor fair, Mr. Southeast Drummer and Drummer Boy contests, plus the Ms. Leather Pride Contest. All festivities at the Holiday Inn Central (800-282-8224). Call 800-279-1106 (code 01) for details.

Friday, June 12

"Girl Jocks" evening of entertainment at Club Townsend for female athletes going to Gay Games. Doors open at 2000, \$8, with hot female deejays and Ava Apple & Co. Call 976-6020.

"Aftershock," post-IML SF party at Daddy's, 1900-2200. It's a \$7 beer/soda bust for Chicago party volunteers and donors.

Saturday, June 13

Diva Dinner & Gay Cabaret, 1800, at Miraloma Park Improvement Center (350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd.). The soiree benefits AEF and GSF. Tickets are \$25. Call 552-4848 for details.

Sunday, June 14

Northern California Association of the Deaf presents "Daddies & Their Boys" beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, with entertainment, slave auction and raffles. Skeeter Wildman and Loren Berthelson emcee. Should be fun!

Jito presents "Tremor," a tea dance at 278 11th Street (\$10 before 1900/\$15 after). Tickets at door only. First 100 patrons get free Freedom '98 tank top!

Regiment of Black & Tans beer/soda bust at Gauntlet II in Los Angeles, 1600-2000, \$7. Hey, it's Flag Day! Any reason to celebrate!

Wednesday, June 17

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2100-2300 only. Call 863-HEAD for info.

Leathermen's Discussion Group at 1930 at a SoMa location. Topic: "Playing With Fear, Playing With Power." Leather encouraged. Call 626-3747.

to get huffy! In the end, it's all up to the judges, and while advice from former IML winners is most valuable, you never know what the judges will do!

There were two other contests going on in Chicago amidst all the madness: the Mr. Ebony in Leather contest at the Leatherneck on Saturday afternoon and the International Boot Black competition all weekend. (Each package holder got a ballot which could then be given to the dozen or so bootblacks vying for the title.)

There were only two contestants for Mr. Ebony in Leather. Davien O. Nelson, who was "stepping down," barely managed to attend and so gave up his judging points. The contest was emceed by Vern Stewart and Queen Cougar, and from all reports, they did a bang-up job. Lots of prizes and lots of support for Cain Berlinger's effort — maybe next year there will be more contestants. (Perhaps if Mr. Berlinger wishes to capitalize on the IML crowd, he should hold the contest on the Thursday night before the IML weekend!) The new Mr. Ebony in Leather is Andre J. Marcial of Washington, D.C. Hopefully, with the proper guidance and encouragement from his sponsor and producer, he will make a positive impact on the leather community.

The International Boot Black Competition was spirited, with some 13 people (including one woman) competing. They were all over the place. All you had to do was get your boots shined and give them your ballot. When all was said and done, the winner was Matthew Duncan of Alexandria, Va., who bootblacks part time at the DC-Eagle. Fred Michmerschhuizen from GMSMA in New York was the first runner-up, and Paul Fraser of Fort Lauderdale was the second runner-up. Matthew Duncan won a round-trip ticket to San Francisco and will be shining boots at the Folsom Street Fair, along with "Driller," last year's winner.

Sunday night saw the main event; the 62 contestants were introduced after a stirring performance of the new "Leather Anthem." After the 20 semifinalists were announced, the contest got under way in earnest. As a judge this year, I can tell you it was not an easy task. Almost 14 hours of pre-judging time made for long days. The only embarrassing incident was when an SF leatherman got very upset with his seat and made a scene to end all scenes. Finally, they moved him to another perch! Harrumph!

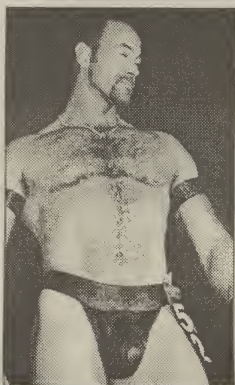
The speeches and physique

scoring were alternated, but the big surprise of the evening was when Ed Ryder swept onstage for the physique portion of the judging clad in a full-length silver fox coat! The audience went berserk! Another one of those unforgettable moments in IML history. Those assembled couldn't help but notice emcee Frank Nowicki snatching the pelts off the floor! Nice try, Frank!

IML '98 was a wonderful event. If you've never been, make your plans now...but don't wait too long. You'll have as good a time as a spectator as you would if you were a candidate for the brass ring. Chicago gives good party!

Here on the home front, the big event coming our way is the gay pride parade on Sunday, June 28. The leather community is not happy with this year's committee. They are making their displeasure known with a mail-in postcard campaign that hopefully will be a wake-up call to the powers-that-be. Oh, there will be leather in the parade, including the Bare Chest Calendar men float. Miller Brewing and Golden Brands have gone out or their way to help create a stunning conveyance.

Beer busts and overnight bike



IML '98 Tony Mills flaunts his magnificent physique for the contest judges.

runs are, as always, the order of the day! Tonight (Thursday, June 11), the dozen winners of the Bare Chest contests will compete at the Powerhouse to see who goes on the cover. The runner-up will be on the back cover. Sounds like a hot night for this year's competitions finale. The Bare Chest Calendar goes into production next month! ▼

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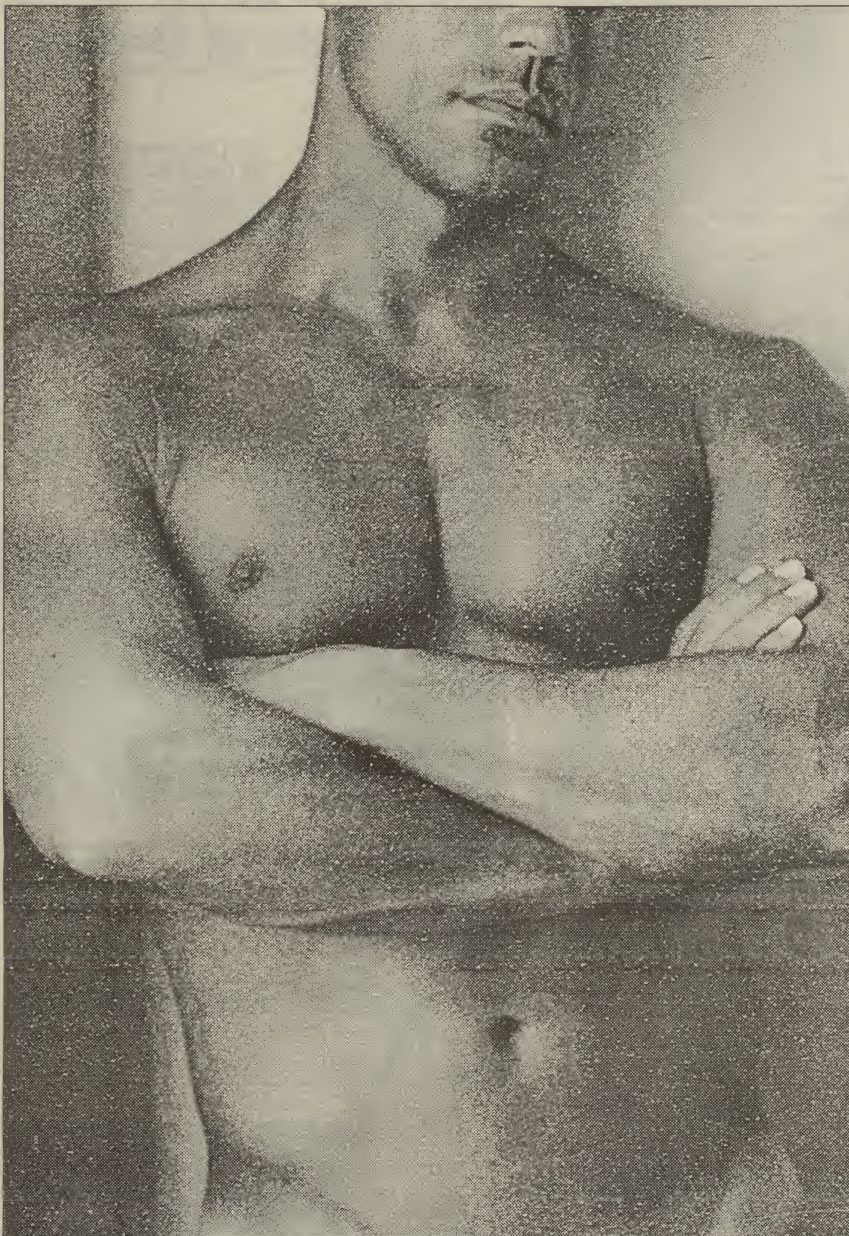
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PARTING GLANCES

Hey 3Byte

I called you "my little heart throb", that's not all you got throbbin'. Let's be like dogs in heat. Woof woof. ☎ 2300

Embarcadero Bart Fri 4/24 5:30

You: Adorable; dark multicolored sweater, short brown hair. Me: Black nylon coat, Jeans. We stared, smiled, you got off at civic center, tried to follow, but lost you. Call me. ☎ 2301

Aids Danceathon

You: Tall boy, nosering, green shirt. Me: Tall boy navy vest. Remember th carefree days? I should have said something. Nice jeans> Interested? ☎ 2302

Vested red cap sexy man!

We keep passing in the Castro. Next time you say HEY, do it at my front door. ☎ 2303

Steamworks-Sunday 5/3

You: Handsome 28yo from Sonoma, goatee, beautiful eyes & smile. Me:

Latin. 3-way w/steve. We: intense connection. Didn't get your number! Love 2 see U again. Please call. ☎ 2304

Steve 4/28 Muni

Castro to Dmwtwn. 1:30p Me: late to work after haircut. I got off at Powell, you were getting off at Mont. I should have stayed on> Please call! D.

Diamond Hgts. Safeway 4/30

We spoke and smiled in produce, checked out. I took your photo in Parking lot You said & pepper w/black goatee. Me: Going nuts for your smile. ☎ 2306

Greg from St. Pete

Sat. 5/2 met in the Castro. You with a friend. Lost you at My Place. Love to see you again! Please call Jimmy. ☎ 2307

Market St Safeway Sat 5/23

Quick smile and nod, back of produce. More smiles, me- checkout: you- still shopping. Me- 5:55, bzzd, purple T. You- little taller, jacket, blue levis, glasses. Let's talk. ☎ 2601

Daniel from Univ. Of San Diego

You-21 visiting with three friends. You live six Blocks from Castro. Me- Gave you Rainbow ring necklace. Is that your boyfriend? If not, would you like to meet? ☎ 2404

House of Prime Rib 5/3/98

You: Filipino/Hawaiian. Me: Nordic, our eyes met, we smiled lots, but couldn't talk. We could make music together. Call me Dinner? Date? ☎ 2309

Noah from Muscle System

We met a few months ago walking down Market St. I was with a friend who knows you from your gym. Maybe we could meet again? ☎ 2402

Moe from South Bay

Met you 2X's at Blow Buddies but was too overwhelmed by your sexiness. To ask for your #. How about we try again? ☎ 2403

Buena Vista Park 5/6 12 Noon

You walking your choc. Lab, me with friend and his two pups. Threw your dogs stick, almost lost him over cliff. Sorry. Would like to see you and dog again. ☎ 2405

5/11 2:30PM Market @ Castro

You: Handsome man w/glasses. Me: Jeans, tan coat, short Hair/Mustache. Saw you on the corner, then again @ Diamond. Would love to meet you. ☎ 2406

World Gym Sun. May 10th

I hope I distracted your workout as much as you did mine! Me-Beard, walkman, black tank. You blue shorts. Spoke in locker room. Hope to chat outside. Call! ☎ 2407

Golden Coffee Shop

Breakfast diner at Sutter and Leavenworth organizer. We shared corner counter. I left and flirted. Can we have coffee Please? ☎ 2408

Market St. Safeway Fri 5-15

11:30 AM you skin-tight black & white pants with friend. Me speechless seeing your bigness. Found my voice. ☎ 2500

24 Divisadero Sunday 5/24 2pm

You told me about your Beagles. I told you about my layoff. I had a bucket and mop. I liked you. How about dinner? (I'm a good cook!) ☎ 2605

I lit your candle

At the AIDS candlelight walk. My dog seemed to want to be close to you, so did I. You-white jacket, dark hair, me-shaved head. Call. ☎ 2501

GAM leaving 4 London May 5th

Talked briefly at B of A Powell/Market on Sat May 2. Me GWM would love to meet again. Pls call. ☎ 2502

Hey Alejandro:

5/9/98 You left the coatcheck before I had a chance to give you my #. Still remembering the taste of peanuts in your mouth. Give me a call. ☎ 2503

Civic CTR Muni Sat 5/16, 7pm

You reading book? I said, Hi. I had to board train, but you blew me a kiss from the platform. Pls call; I'd like to blow you...one too. ☎ 2504

Joe*Pleasuredome 4/26

We danced. I came ack to introduce myself. We didn't exchange numbers. Want to? Rob. ☎ 2401

4/24 Watergarden Buff chocolate

We crossed path several times and said hello. You were with a friend.

4/29 You whistled me on 18th St. @ Castro. You were talking to a friend again. Too shy to talk. Me: muscular Asian You: Buff Black/Asian(?) How about a third chance. Just you and me! ☎ 2400

Castro Muni underground

Tom hoping one day we can get together again, been thinking about you ever since I saw you. Harry. Forgot to get your number. ☎ 2505

Jr's Walnut Creek May 1

You goodlooking stud boy 6' tall. Me older w/glasses you asked me for directions to 12-20. Please call me your dream. ☎ 2506

River Bus-Guerneville 5/24

Youre from Winsor, darkeyes, beard, Lone Star Cap, really shy. I'm silver fox, you thought hot! So are you. You mistook my kiss and left w/your roommate. I am available. Let's talk!!!! ☎ 2600

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GWM32, 5'9" 160seeks poz GWM

Seeking GWM 20-45 for friendship and possible relationship. Enjoys quiet times, movies, working out, dinners, travel & going out. Looking for goodlooking male who's stable & honest. ☎ 2310

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for a friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2311

Handsome muscular Italian

GWM, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance, and quiet times seeks another HIV- extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 2312

42 HIV+ 190 bottom Sks hung top

Redwood City, 6'3" handsome 6" cut brn/gm moustache, passionate romantic. Seeking hung top 7" thick or more. Race unimportant, Ht/Wt proportionate. Sexually open, aggressively passionate, handsome 35-50 smoker ok be a lover not a fighter. I like long hard sessions hairy a + not required. ☎ 2313

Lunch Date-downtown...

Creative professional GWM, 28, ISO lunch date (27-40). Ivy Grad. & HIV-. I enjoys travels and Tango; MoMa & Miro; NYT on Sun; CA zin (& sin). ☎ 2314

Need hot hung HIV- Top. 25-50

I'm seeking relationship with man who enjoys being waited on massaged and cared for, by mid 40s GWM (looks 30s). Call. ☎ 2315

GAM seeks mature GWM for frnd

And possibly LTR. HIV- N/D N/S healthy, Ht/Wt proportionate versatile & slender a +. ☎ 2316

GWM seeking loving son

GWM 40 is seeking men 19-25 a companion I'm HIV-. I'm very youthful and energetic. You should be healthy clean shaven White or Latino. Honest and sincere. ☎ 2317

I'm tired of 1 mile stands &

Playing games. I'm a GWM 39 looking 4 a friend or companion 20-35 4 more than sex. ☎ 2318

All American guy

GWM 6', 175#, 39, handsome, HIV+. Genuine, grounded, fun loving, romantic. Enjoys movies, sports, outdoors, home life, and walks on beach with dog. Seeks similar (30-45yrs) for friendship/ possible LTR. ☎ 2319

Asian little brothers!

Chinese American, 6', 185#, 40, very handsome, HIV+. seeks Asian little brother to have fun & LTC. Must be younger, smaller & likes big brother type. ☎ 2320

Artist seeking other artist

Or persons interested in the Arts for fun and good times. ☎ 2331

Big N tall Latin

Masculine Latino, 5'11, 190lbs, 31, heavy accent, foreign born. Seeking Whites or Latinos over 25 for friendship or LTR. N/S N/D

GWM 52 fairly good looks Europ.

6', 180#, HIV-, vers. Like travel, cooking, movies, theatre, companionship. Smoker, nondrinker, no drugs. Looking for a relationship with someone 40-50 yrs who matches above. ☎ 2322

Asian male seeing friends

GAM, 38, 140, 5'7", well built, smooth, dark like dining, theatre and outdoors. Seek Wm 25-38, tall, good body for friends. ☎ 2324

30 something GWM?

Attractive GWM, 34, 5'7", 155, In/shp looking for In/shp GWM 31-37. Tired of 25yo party boys or 45 yo bores, me too. I like guys my age, interested?? ☎ 2325

Buscando Hispanohablantes..

Bilingual intermediate spanish student, trained bodyworker, seeks fluent spanish-speaker for practice/instruction to trade for massage. Teaching experience preferred. ☎ 2326

Seeking sign language teacher

Trained bodyworker wants to exchange massage for ASL instruction/practice with queer, fun, fluent signer, about twice a month teaching experience preferred. ☎ 2327

Dad seeks Son

Shy SF GWM, 57, 5'10", 140, masculine top, NS, HIV-, hairy. You: passive, submissive, fit, quiet, serious, HIV-. Needing love and discipline, under age 32. ☎ 2328

Men of color desired

Shy SF GWM, 57, 5'10", 150#. Interested in meeting Black Latino, White, masculine under 50. I enjoy being watched giving blowjobs to HIV- men. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 2329

Love to suck dicks

Big men 7" or more. GWM, 6'2" can suck on you for hours. On call for you. All races-ages 20-50. Lets be together-evening or late night Yours. ☎ 2330

MuLatto, guy, sexy, educated

And good looking. Seeks financially secure male for fun and good times. ☎ 2332

My perfect mate

GWM, great looking, great body, HIV-, early 30s, successful, grounded, self-actualized, athletic, adventurous, romantic. Seeks same. ☎ 2333

Jungle screams 4 German cream!

Beefy, masculine, blond, German, goodlooking, hairy top, white collar, goatee into jazz, architecture, culture and monogamy. ☎ 2409

GWM HIV- beard 5'8" 135 active

Recently retired art teacher, good cook, humorous, like travel, beaches/Frisbee to Bach, with much to give younger man, any race, bottom, small. Let's share the good things in life. ☎ 2410

ISO Bottom Boy

Masculine, manly, spirited, affectionate WM- tight gymnast build, 5'6", 145lbs. HIV-. Seeks inshape, grounded bottom for fierce, tender sensual connection. L/A/B males welcome. ☎ 2411

Are you serious?

About wanting to be loved? Call me. Me: handsome gym bodybuilder. 47yo-6', 200#. UB: under 55 yo, GWM stocky or muscular, unconventional, versatile and sincere. ☎ 2412

"Scene" Stealer

SGWM (P), extraordinarily goodlooking, sincere, kind, multi-talented, fun, 5'11 1/2, 170lbs., in-shape, healthy, energetic-seeking: SGWM, 24-42yo, passionate, natural goodlooks, charm. Dark hair and eyes a plus. For: dating possible LTR. ☎ 2413

If you want you can have

Caring, thoughtful, BM prof. 40s, looking for LTR with experienced WM bottom who's physically and emotionally available as I am and desires a monogamous union. Pls. Be 45-55, clean shaven and under 6', med heavy set OK. ☎ 2414

Ready to walk down the aisle!

GWPM- 34yrs old, 5'11" 185lbs. Enjoys travel, reading, hiking and Foreign movies. ISO 30-40 yrs old who is thoughtful, considerate and kind. That's all I am asking for. ☎ 2415

Just hold me

GWM 28yrs, 5'7" 1/2, 160#, brn/brn. Lkng 4 someone 2 hold on hot sultry nights. HIV+ Lkng 4 TL U 28-35yrs. I love animals, live theater, museums. Let me hold you. ☎ 2416

Very hairy 37yo GWM Seeks

Goodlooking GWM for friendship or poss. relationship. Blonde hair/blue eyes a +. Me: smoker Don't drink or drug, very cuddly 165lbs, tattooed-pleased. I'm goodlooking and very loving man. Let's talk! ☎ 2417

Russian River area husband Mat!
ISO same, 44, GWM, joggers body, BN, BI, into fitness, plants, parents, NPR, literature, a good laugh. Job is seasonally demanding, you shouldn't be. Carnal comes after connecting, cuddling, commitment. ☎ 2418

GWM seeking GWM Collegeboys
Cute GWM 26 yo, 6'1", 180#, seeks other cute W/M, 18 to 30 for friendship and fun. I have short brown hair green eyes. ☎ 2419

HIV + E. Bay Top wanted
Black, Brown or dark tan preferred. HIV + bottom, 36, 185, Blue/brown, moustache smoker is looking for Concord/Antioch area 35+ Brown Boy friend for domestic bliss. ☎ 2420

Partners for life
Homes Italian 52, 5'10", 210#, wh/br, tattoos, stable, honest, open mind/heart, ISO monogamous LTR (friends first, safe sex later) N/S, N/II/III, HIV-neg, attractive spirit/mind/body, near Walnut Creek preferred. ☎ 2421

A few of my favorite things...
Long walks, bike rides, your hot breath on the back of my neck, your body pressed against mine. GWM, 39 yo, 5'7", 140#, NS/ N/D, Vegetarian. ☎ 2422

Goodlooking but lonely
Tan handsome 6'1", 180#, 43, good body flirts seeks vanilla to leather for opera to Folsom, European, Latin. No kids. Ads work? ☎ 2423

ISO: A new friend..
To hang out with. Nice guy, 45, Italian, 6', 175#, varied interests, motorcycle rides (on the back). Adventurous, witty, fun. Take a chance. ☎ 2424

40yo GWM 6'1" 190lb with white hair
and beard seeks "normal" guy who can enjoy life, but not to excess. Willing to try, explore & love. Please reply. ☎ 2507

Attractive boy next door type
Attractive GWM, 6'2", 175#, young 40, professional, clean cut, very smooth, top, seeks similar. I am romantic and love to get physical. Desire fun times and also LTR. ☎ 2508

Seeks goodlooking Asian male.
Attractive GWM, German/American student, 24, blonde hair blue eyes 5'11", 150# smooth chest, athletic into volleyball, backpacking, new to San Fran, somewhat shy, sensitive, seeks Asian/Pacific Islander. ☎ 2509

Looking for...
A gym buddy/hiking bike rider flexible schedule bonus good sex sessions. ☎ 2510

My baby got blue eyes
Cute GAM 32, 5'7", 135# HIV+, looking to date a GWM-Like blond/blue eyes, height/weight proportionate and attractive, age is open, clean shaven preferred. ☎ 2511

HIV + seeks friends or more
I'm Latin, 27, attractive, 5'7", 165lbs, stable. I like movies, weekend travel, and natural things. Seeking Latins or whites over 21. N/S, no bar flirts or chatroom addicts. ☎ 2512

Buscando un poco de amor
GWM professional looking for interesting Latino, 5'9", 160#, 36yo Lt brn/blue eyes interested in Latin arts & culture & bicycling cooking & theatre. Looking for masculine Latino 30-45 pref stocky. ☎ 2513

Couple seek slave
You need SM, CBT, chastity and use. Serve Master 37, 5'11" 165# white) and boy (25, 6', 165# black). Curious? Go ahead! Call and find out. ☎ 2514

Service for older gentlemen
30 yo strong masculine queen loves older men (40-80) may I service you on a regular basis? HIV-, I just be a real friend. ☎ 2515

HIV + Blk 5'10", 120#
Healthy middle age man with good physical appearance seeking to meet a guy who has a lean physical appearance also, for friendship, weekend trips, companionship and made more. ☎ 2516

Big and Tall Dept.
6'8", 350# GWM, 40- sports fanatic, gourmet cook or dining out? Movies or theatre, sarcastic humor; sentimental, russian river week-ends; for dating or maybe more. ☎ 2602

If I only had a brain
GWM 5'7" 140#, 47 Br/bl, looking for buds capable of conversation beyond size stats and gym visits. Doctors and anyone else operation with a sharp mind a plus. ☎ 2603

Love a Liberation
Fit sane GWM, 40s, Healthy poz, 5'9", GWM, 40s, healthy poz, 5'9", 165lbs, hry chest, drk hr, spiritual, depthful, relating, you: Top, taller, masculine, no vices. ☎ 2604

Dad needed
Your tongue down my throat, your hard dick up my ass. Boy available for long term training. GWM, 5'7", 140#, moustache, goatate, tattoos. ☎ 2606

Summer Love, Eternal friends...
GWM 23, seeks GAM under 27 for short term relationship, now long term friendship, after the summer. I'm medium build, easy going non smoker, fun to be around. ☎ 2607

Fun Loving Easy Going
Man-Italian/French clean cut/HIV-, seeks other men, Latino < Italian, fair haired for dating and possible LTR. ☎ 2608

Elegant senior wants younger
Man for sophisticated intellectual and physical erotic play. Very verbal, upper Haight my place. ☎ 2609

30's GWM ISO 30's GWM who is:
Intelligent, funny, sexual, responsible, strikingly handsome. In shape, smooth, romantic energetic, silly & sincere. Who loves music, travel, movies, food & wine, laughter, time with friends, time alone. ☎ 2610

ISO permanent master/couple
Total Asian slave, experienced, eager to be owned. 5'8", 150, 36, HIV-, no games. Seeks full time position as domestic servant and sex slave. ☎ 2611

Horny GAM seeks GWM bottom
Friend or pos. LTR. HIV-, healthy, N/D, small build, under 5'11. Enjoy fun time on reg. basis. H/Wt proportionate mature guy a +. ☎ 2612

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Man's man
I'm very handsome, masculine, muscular, genuine GWM 30, HIV-. Looking for very sensual hairy top-man with big moustache and big dick for hot sex, friendship and maybe more. ☎ 2334

Hot oral service for GAM
6'2", 195lbs, GWM has deep-throat for smooth masculine in-shape. Asian cocks (over 5"). Fuck my face. Play with my tits. Shoot on my hairy chest. No recip. necessary. ☎ 2335

Body touch exchange
Attractive masseur, tall, great body, creative hands, 30s, wants to exchange sensual massage or oil wrestling with goodlooking, well-fit guy; great for gym goers, curious, 4-hand massage too! ☎ 2336

Hairy, cuddly man wanted
Me: visiting SF 5/16-6/12. GWM, 48 yo, 6'3", 215#, balding, clean shaven, moderately hairy. You: any age/race. Both:passionate, love making love with another man kissing, oral, uninhibited. ☎ 2337

Battle for top spot
GWM 33 5'10", 175lb, smooth tan defined with hot tight hole seeks Blk. or Lat. wrestling opponents. Minimum rules maximum action. Can you tame this cocky white boy? ☎ 2338

European bottom sks tops
Masculine, str8-acting, nice European bottom, 5'7", 175#, blnd/blu, goatate, hairy chest, seeks masc. experienced handsome tops or gay couples for discreet encounters. ☎ 2339

Hot 40yo top seeking yng
Bottom boy who loves to suck & be fucked and please older man. I'm HIV- you should be 2. 3 way and group is ok. Bring your boyfriend. ☎ 2340

Latino bottom seeks tops
Latino cute 38yo dark hair, brown eyes. Inshape, want to get fucked by Dwarf all ages welcome. ☎ 2341

Weekend afternoon play 4 hairy M
WM 40-70-Oakland-good shape, 140#+, needs buddy for video J/O, oral action my place, must have hairy legs and in-shape. ☎ 2342

Big pecs muscle dad
Wants you on your knees for pec play, verbal discipline & spanking. Dad/son/coach scenes. ☎ 2427

Sit on my face tonight
Very handsome & not I Italian, 44, 6', 170#, moustache & beard. Excellent, in eating ass... Come & experience the best! Safe!! ☎ 2345

GWM age 40 blnd/blu glding
HIV-, 5'11, 160lbs, muscular seeks buddy in Sonoma City, for fucking & heavy ass eating. HIV- only, safe!! ☎ 2344

Wanted: Hot top
After you've worked on my 7" cock and rimmed me, I'll suck your big cock till I'm sick. Then fuck me long and slow for at least an hour. Sound hot!! Call me. ☎ 2345

Black studs who like to...
Kick back, get great head & drop a load. Should contact me ASAP. Castro location, 12-5am sex by hot Italian, 45, 5', 180, beard, buzzcut, handsome. ☎ 2346

Willing to service
Hot, hunky, muscular men for cock massage and BJ. ☎ 2347

Masculine straight mature WM
Would like cock and balls shaved followed by full body hands on massage with extended climax delaying cock & ball play! ☎ 2348

Want to get fucked
GWM, 5'11", 170, HIV-, N/S, N/D, like suck cock and get fuck and play- Age and race not a factor- Lets have fun. ☎ 2349

Two hot bears in E Bay W/Big Red
Goodlooking, bearded, hairy, 48/41, 6'3"/5'10", 240/235, T/B, ISO masc. men for hot, safe sex at our place in the suburbs (close to Barn). Discrete, honest, no strings. Bi/Straight ok.. ☎ 2350

Visiting New York?
Hot German Daddy, 54, 6'1", mous. Big uncult dick will meet large. Hirsute bodybuilder bottoms. ☎ 2351

Gulp it down real deep
WM 40s, HIV-, very masculine good shape, dominant, verbal seeks very submissive HIV-, cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 2352

Hung guys wanted!
I am seeking guys who are hung (9") inches or more for fun and good times. ☎ 2354

Use me as your sex slave.
Torture subject, and untrial, for one top or many. Me: 39, skinned, HIV+, tattoos, ok shape. You: sadistic, imaginative, demanding, merciful. CBT, TT, suck, fuck, piss, high pain thresh-hold. Safe!! ☎ 2355

Big top guy
26 yo N/S seeks smooth muscle man for discreet fun, N/S married guy welcome. I'm 5'8" med/build GWM, new to Bay Area. ☎ 2426

7 hour suck slut
Mindless slow wet. Cute late thirties blond 5'10", 145. Young boy butt licked, also likes coming and nude beaches, long med, cocks pref. ☎ 2428

East Bay older man
You don't have to be beautiful you just have to be big-cut, and like to be naked, and like to be sucked, and fuck me what ever you like. No cock rings please. ☎ 2429

Attention assfucking tops!
I want to get gang banged. Stocky, 46, white bear, shaved head/beard. Line up and marathon fuck my hungry ass. Your turn maybe next. Any race/age. ☎ 2430

Wanted: Hot HIV + top
I'll suck your big cock till I'm hard. Fuck me long and slow for hour(s). Also, passionate kissing, tit and ball play/torture. Me: middle aged, good looking, 5'11", goatate, workout, br/hzl, HIV-, ISO regular buddy, not LTR. You: under 40, any race, top, safe sex, can keep it up, no drugs (pot OK) or heavy drinkers. ☎ 2432

Exactly 30 words:
WM, 41, 6', 175, masculine, handsome, real, nice dick, wants to experience safe, discrete glory hole, maybe aroma, not comfortable with public places like bookstores, sex clubs, etc. Sincere only. ☎ 2433

100% Bottom
Handsome, masculine WM, 40, 5'10", 150lbs, smooth & trim with stache looking to serve dominant masculine top. Make me squirm & moan. ☎ 2434

Dominant tops
GWM bottom seeks men any race for sex. Especially long time sucking and fucking. Yours for pleasure. ☎ 2435

Dateless and sexless in Portland
I am a very light skinned Black & White bpu 22 yo, in P-town. I seem to be no ones type here since I'm Bi-racial. People say I look Porto Rican. ☎ 2436

Small slender men 18-40 wanted
By 53 yo masseur who enjoys massaging slim lean men. Free professional licensed one hour Swedish massage daytime. Haigh/Panhandle area. Taolst Erotic massage also available after Swedish massage. ☎ 2433

Want to get it in you!!
8 thick inches. Uncut on an inshape, goatate handsome 38 year old blond. I want sincere younger bottom guys who want to play and get it right!! ☎ 2434

Amazing piss sensation
My deep throat will envelop your slit and bring your balls and bladder to explosive release. Under 35. Same day or night callback. ☎ 2435

Seeking man tonight
Submissive black bottom available in the evenings & some weekends. ☎ 2436

Come on down!
Under 27, HIV-, who are in shape. By GWM, 23, brn/hzl, HIV-, discretion assured. NO fats/fems. ☎ 2438

Hot healthy hung HIV-
Man, seeks same, be HIV-, 20-50 years, young and versatile for sex, fun & possible LTR. Leave your #. ☎ 2439

Erotic touch
Healthy Asian with smooth body likes to be touched all over. When aroused, will want to be sucked off or fuck you. ☎ 2420

Get naked kick back and get
Sucked, great blow-jobs for horny, white, masc., trim guys with generous cut, man-sized cocks & balls. Talented hot mouth & tongue takes ur load, married men welcome I'll suck you dry!! ☎ 2421

Smooth musc. slks hairy bears
Me: 40, 5'10", 170lbs, HIV+, NS. You: very hairy, bigger weight proportionate, NS. Into mutual FF, TT, WS, bondage, cuddling, hugging, kissing & affection. ☎ 2431

Oral/Anal
Oral/Anal bottom looking for fun time with hot handsome, tall, well-endowed GWM 35-55. I am 5'8", salt and pepper, smooth with hairy legs, small moustache. ND, aroma okay. ☎ 2422

Hairy masculine bear
Hry masc. man, 6', 200# looking for hry J/O buddy. Into hot verbal man to man sex. Sniffing, licking, talking dirty. Enthusiastic for masc. men UB2. Hairy preferred, E. Bay preferred. ☎ 2423

Butt action
BLK healthy HIV+ 50+,. Into clean ass eating any age race your place. ☎ 2431

ISO Marin SF hung GM
Tis HIV- pussy is ready, & hot for your cock. I deep throat slow. Then you fuck my tight ass. Hard as we cum GWM 5'2" 115# 55yr hot mouth and ready. ☎ 2424

Top this!
GBM 38 6' 195lbs hairy and a bottom looking for a top to have fun with you be easy going, fun person. ☎ 2425

6ft Man Boy Insatiable bottom
Hairy built white male offers great head and clean talented butt for hung man 35+ all welcome, flexible scheduled, fun your pleasures, call me. ☎ 2426

Ready for ownership?
Daddy/master:GWM 6', 165#, fit, intelligent, 50s, stable, successful. You/slave: lean, smooth or shaven, submissive, obedient, need direction & security.Sane SM/BD, have dungeon. ☎ 2427

Young smooth BM
18-28, thin, small framed, big? Like to have it worshipped? Trim WM, 50 5'10" 160# wants to service you. No reciprocation must be clean. No anal. ☎ 2428

Older healthy HIV+ bottom
55, hard body toned 5'11", 170#, seeks top for fucking, sucking, kinky ok. ☎ 2428

Coveralls/Overalls
& other working mans uniform wear, masculine WM 36, seeking other masculine men to explore uninhibited goodtimes. W/S & raunch a plus. ☎ 2430

Gulp it down real deep!!!
WM 40s HIV- very masculine good shape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long session at your place in SF. ☎ 2432

30's GWM ISO GWM who is:
Intelligent, funny, sexual, strikingly handsome, responsible, in shape, smooth, silly and sincere. Who Loves: music, movies, travel, food & wine laughing, time with friends, time alone. ☎ 2433

FETISHES

No reciprocation
I take orders to rim & then you fuck, then you order me to clean off your cock, then you order me to love. ☎ 2356

Diapers!
Seeking daring, fun and audacious guys into wetting, regression, submission, boyish pranks, or just playing baby. ☎ 2357

Sock boy sought
By aggressive WM. Forced outdoor sockwalks, BD, VA, forced smelly sock worship, assigned shoes/socks, humiliation & control. Must crave being forced to go around in stockinged feet. ☎ 2358

Lookin' for a fight!
Meet in my gym, get bare-assed, step into the ring, fight like pitbulls! No rules, no holds barred, top-out or knock-out. Hairy muscled brawlers my meat!! ☎ 2359

Dildo pig wanted
For actual butt plowing, also into WS, TT, & FF (small hands). Me: 40, 5'10", 170lbs, goatate, tattoos, HIV+. You: 35-55 in shape and ready to play. ☎ 2360

Submission-curious Black boy
30, 6', 170-150s, youthful athletic, jock type, into playing and watching sports, seeking large, older daddy-type. Big dicks muscular, hairy body, dominate A++ ☎ 2361

Adaptable, obedient, dutiful, Senior
Male is available for Prof., married men who need alternative, pleasures. SF or Santa Rosa. ☎ 2362

Generous sexy handsome couple
30's HIV+, white, in great shape, seeks well hung top man, 30-47, to make home video. You must be verbal, long lasting, rough. We like ski masks, toys, S/M. ☎ 2437

I'm thirsty
Man with probing tongue and throat wants to explore your piss slit, experience the release of your full bladder and balls. Be under 35. Same day/night call back. ☎ 2434

Do you like being tickled?
Goodlooking WM, 35 masculine, open-minded, wants very sensitive men under 45 for tickling sessions. Prefer in decent shape, masculine, willingness to be vulnerable. Straight/nonsex. Fine. ☎ 2435

Super thirsty real nice guy
Dreams of relieving your brimming balls/bladder via oral worship of your hose, any size ok, uncut a +, best attached to a trim bod near my own 5'9", 160#, 32 " waist. ☎ 2436

Corporal punishment meted out
To deserving individuals. Training to serve and suffer for the pleasure entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training and abuse need apply. Subject should be in good shape, 18-38, no fantasy trips/first timers. ☎ 2437

Big men big dildoes
GBM, 44yo, 5'11", 250lbs, hung, big tits, seeks other big and hefty men into mutual dildee pleasure, discretion, be big sexy & ready!! ☎ 2438

Sonoma self-suckers wanted
Lme rim you while you suck yourself off you jackoff while you suck, yourself or you jack off in public or in my car as I drive and watch. ☎ 2439

Bondage for Asians
WM, 50, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock, balls, tits and make you cum. Muscular a plus. ☎ 2440

Submissive handy/person TV maid
Seeks attractive Lady in need of home repairs, gardening, party help etc. Have truck, tools, and attire. Very obedient in Hotpans and mini's... Discreet. ☎ 2363

COUPLES

European bottom sks. gay couple.
European GWM, 34yo, 5'7", 170#, bl/bl, masc, hairy chest, bottom only seeks masculine, healthy tops for his first 3 some. ☎ 2365

Sexy Poz couple seeks same
For hot sexplay. We are attractive, fit, muscular, 38, 5'8", 150# & 44, 5'11", 180#, friendly, passionate guys, U B 20s-40s, in-shape. We guarantee you a hot time!! Hot!! ☎ 2366

Dad & boy ISO flexible 3rd
For ongoing 3-ways. Into c/s, rimming, fucking, bondage. Dad-40s, 5'10", 160#, hairy w/ beard & moustache. Boy-30s, 6'1", 160#, goatate. Both trim & T. You, 30-40s & trim. ☎ 2441

Awaiting orders
I take WS & rim orders from dominant male as he focuses on 3rd guy. My role is 2nd slave being told what to do & then leave. ☎ 2442

OTHER

Wrestlers rule!!
6', 190#, seeks buddies for wrestling. Friendly style, my mat or beach. Healthy handsome guy, jocks or nude. Beginners OK. Both guys win. ☎ 2438

Daytime-asshole eater
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!!! ☎ 2439

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Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

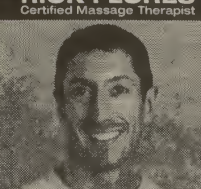
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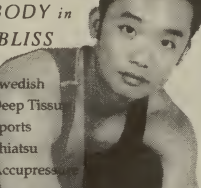


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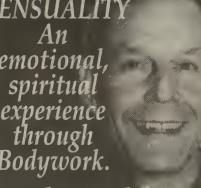
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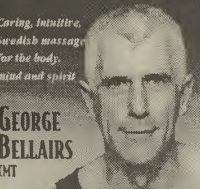
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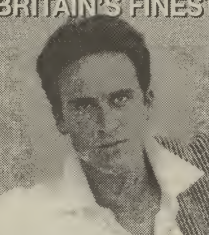
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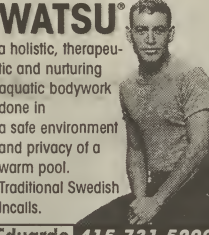
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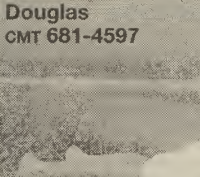
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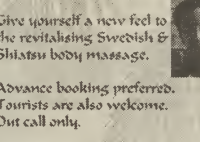
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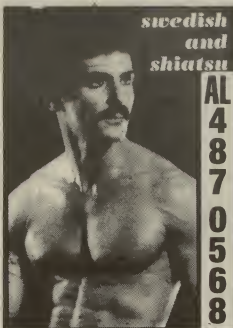
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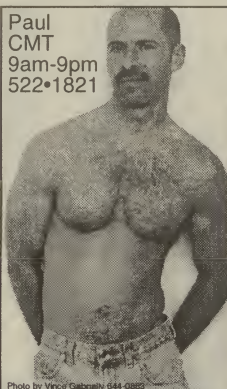
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Deadlines**
Display Ads June 12th @5:00
Line Ads June 22nd @12:00

MASSAGE



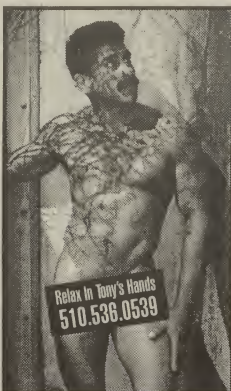
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\$60 Jim 267-1817

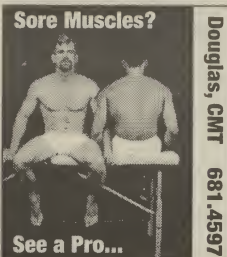


Paul CMT
9am-9pm
522-1821

Photo by Vince Calabrese 644-0802



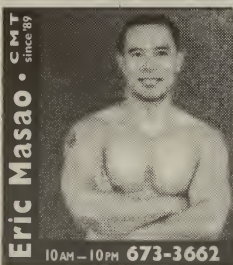
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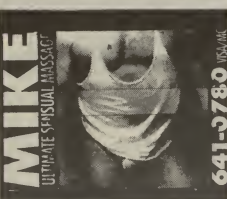
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Display Ads
June 12th @5:00

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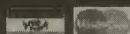
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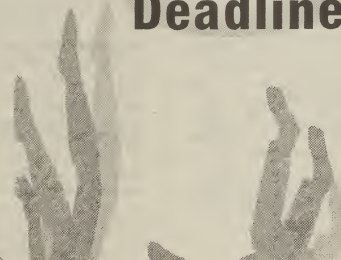
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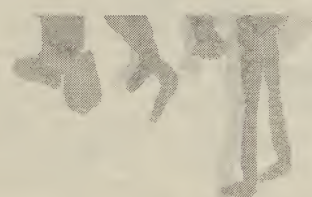


Display Ads

June 12th @5:00

Line Ads

June 22nd @12:00



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39yo top 6'1", 195#, 7"uncut, flattop
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Mohawk sinister, goatate
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Mild to Wild
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SIZE 12 FEET-HOT-TOP
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6', 150lbs, Thick jet-black hair.
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Twin mounds of pleasure!
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All buttplay scene.

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Young great staying power792-2222
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TOP/BOTTOM MUSCLE BOY FUN/HOT
Kicks back for service*24 Hours
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Big fat tool 487-9566 Pgr678-1005

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Very handsome&masculine dark hair
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BIG PEKS. YUMMY BUTT
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MAGNIFICENT 10.5X7.5 TOOL
Dominant top, love to be serviced
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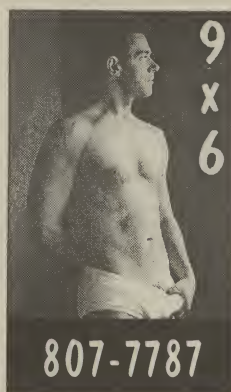
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19YO BLOND
TRUE 10" UNCUT
5ft 10", 150#, blueeyes, boyish,
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Smooth, Athletic, Clean-cut, Hung
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6' 195, 30yrs. Buffed and brutal
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22 yrs Hung 8" Great Ass
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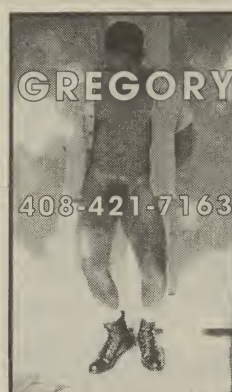
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BRITISH UNCUT
29, Blnd/blu, 6', 170#, athletic
smooth, friendly & passionate.
\$100 Ed 219-8365 vm/Pgr 24/7

22 yr old Frat Boy Hunk
Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.
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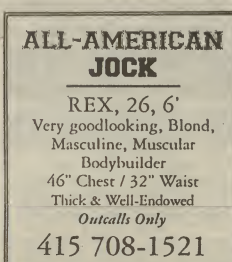


GREGORY

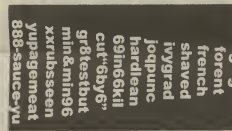
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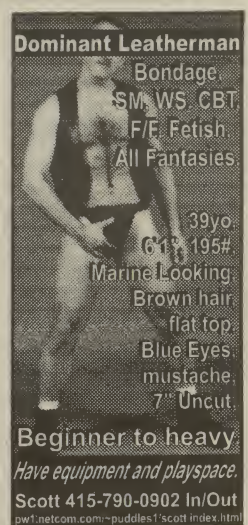
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Dominant Leatherman
Bondage
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All Fantasies
39yo.
6'1", 195#
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Brown hair
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Beginner to heavy
Have equipment and playspace.
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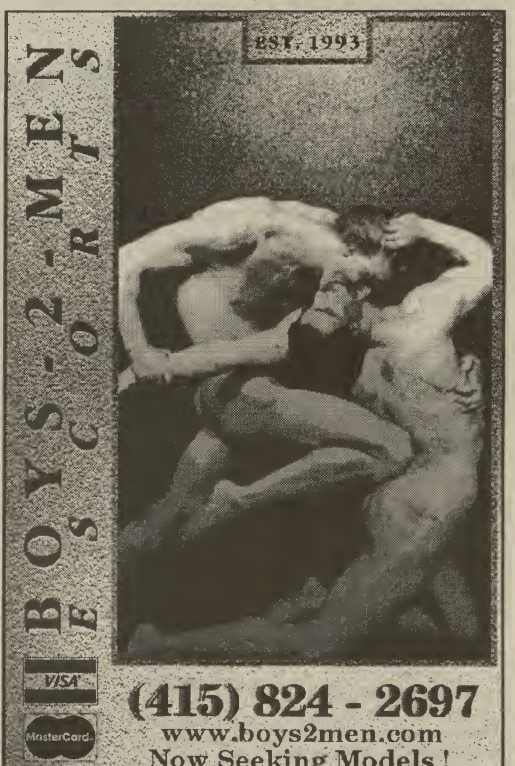
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22 yo. 5'7" 235lbs. 19 arm
50 ch. 32 wst. Call Pete
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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS
WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
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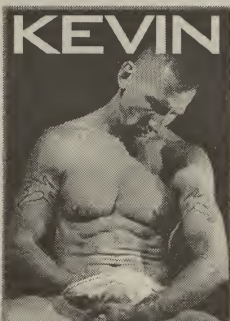
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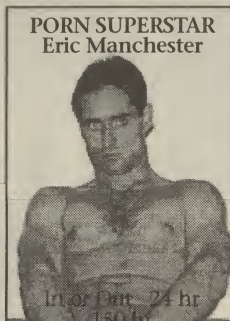
PGR•790-1545

JACK TOP REILLY STUD



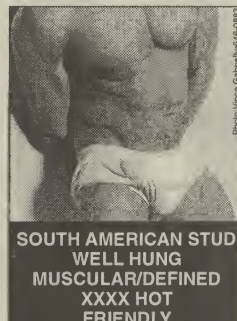
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PORN SUPERSTAR
Eric Manchester

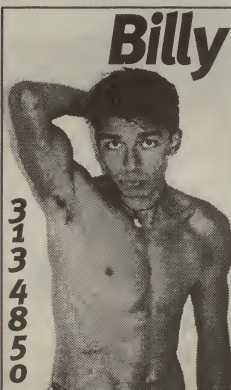


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150 lb
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NO DRUGS / NO \$8M

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WELL HUNG
MUSCULAR/DEFINED
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FRIENDLY
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Billy



3
1
3
4
8
5
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NEW ALL AMERICAN BOY
KYLE • 20yrs • 5'10"
7 1/2 • 160 lb • Grn/Brn
Incredibly beautiful
face with smooth
toned youthful build
oral extraordinaire
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VGL Irish man, 6', 175
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Friendly
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FRENCH MARINE
Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
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UNCUT TOP
MASCULINE LATIN, CLEAN
CUT, ATHLETIC BUILT
GOODLOOKING-SATISFY-
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24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
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versatile Call anytime 837-8900
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6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
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A real looker with a smooth tight
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Hairy chest stud gives deposit
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By Sexy, 150lb. Dude, 8"
Versatile, No Body Fat
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100% Worth It!
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For a hot-erotic massage by a
well hung boy-Touch me \$60/80
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for handsome, Muscular Jock
Mike 405-9669* Thick 9"

26yo Xtra handsome, Latino Top!
ANDRES 807-5079

Delicious Young Boy ready to
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Fill you up. 415-253-3930 SF out
20 yo 135# 5'9" 8". Peter

Foot fetish dream team! Two sexy
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5ft 7" 130# clean shaven
Smooth skin muscular crew
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Friendly, out call only SF city
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26yo. Hung 10X7 Tall masc. vry gdlikg
Discreet, avail. 24-7. Tony 831-5110

X-Army Sgt 6'4" 195# Handsome,
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By goodlooking 26yo, very friendly
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Thirty something with good looks &
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I'm well built, aggressive top!
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6', 21yo
Hairless body
Affectionate
Versatile
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Only

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Hot, in/out Pgr 597-1360

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A HANDSOME MUSCULAR MAS-
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ARMS & A SOFT SOUTHERN
DRAWL WILL RIDE YOU OFF INTO
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8.5X6" Hard!! 791-3390 24Hrs

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Eager for experience, Red/hazle, 6'4".
\$100/out. Lance. Pgr 313-4560

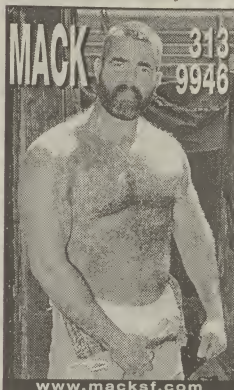
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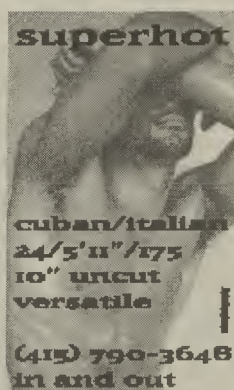
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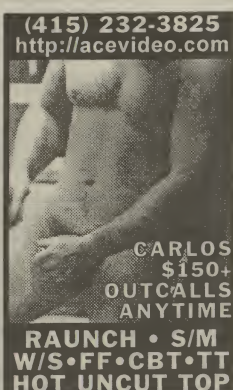
ANDRE 227-3117



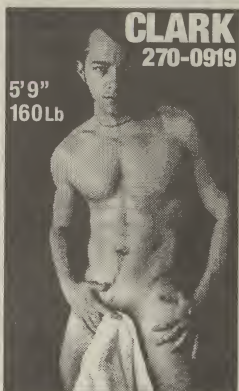
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5'8" 170 30YO C44/W29/A17/Q26
8" CUT 160 OUT
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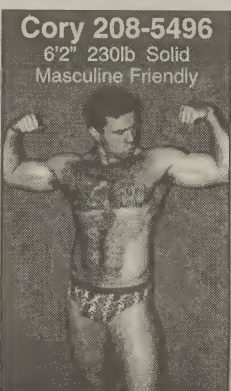
superhot
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24/5'11"/175
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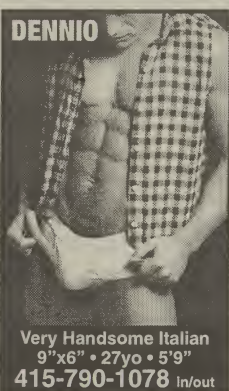
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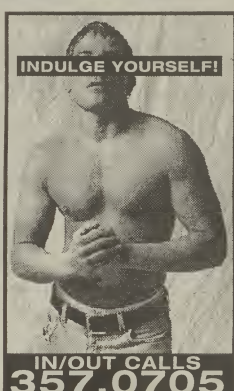
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160Lb



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Monte versatile \$100 392-3741 E24

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Swimmers build brn/brn Out only
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Cute young (24) Blond smooth botm
will service U! \$40/60 995-2342 E24

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CUTE HUNG VERSATILE 18YO
6'2" 185lbs Brn/Blu
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body, smooth, 5'7", 135lbs fun and
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I also kick back. What's your fantasy
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Jimmy, 29, 5'10", 155#, thick meat
HOT LEATHER FANTASY
Buzz-cut, bubble butt, eager to turn
you on. Page/VM 709-2750 E25

STRAIGHT MAN
Striking tanned smooth Solo Flex
body W thick 8X6 shaft nice
bubble butt 6' 210# bl/brn 50c 18a
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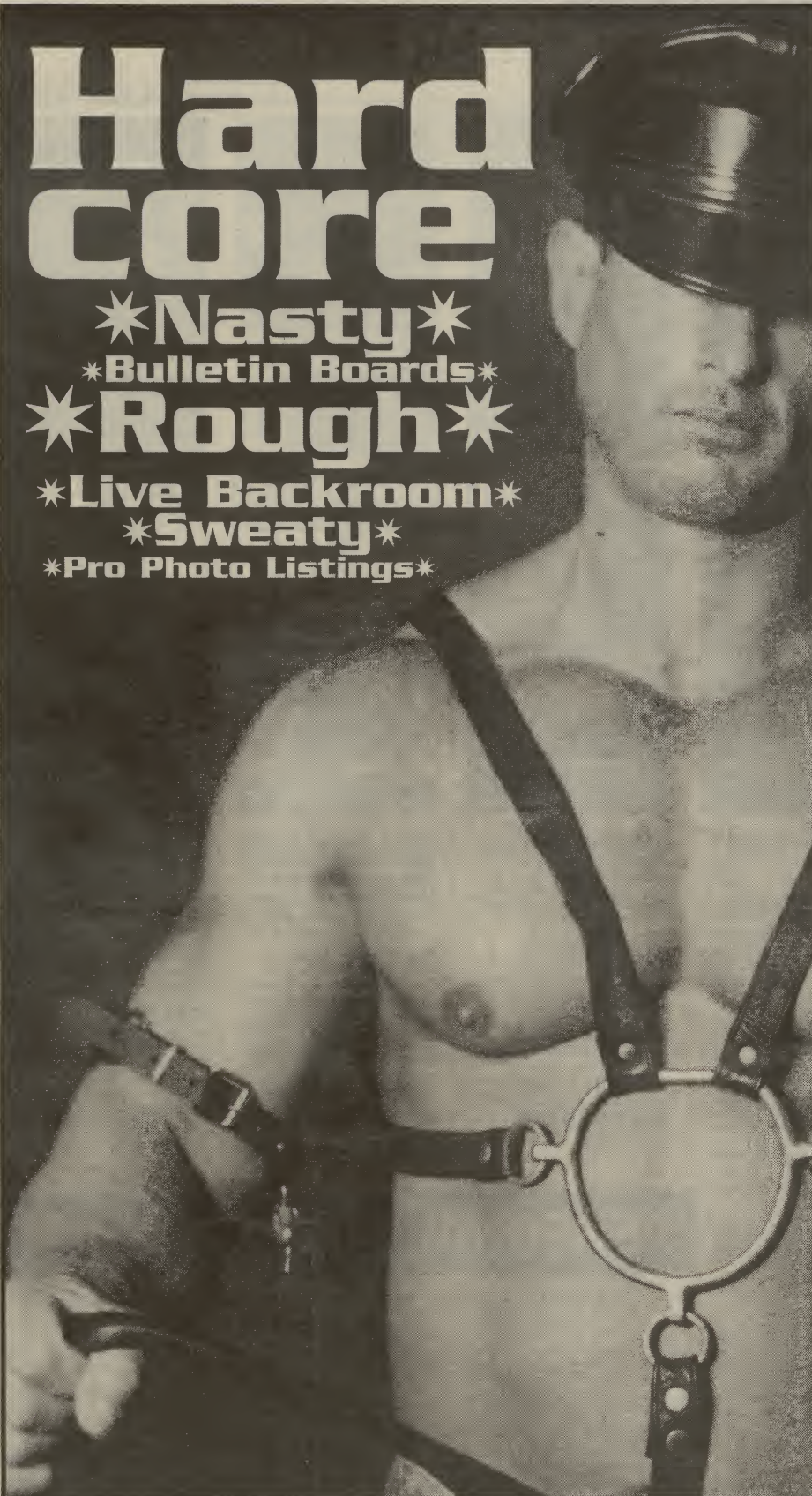
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